

THE INCREDIBLE HULK



JOHNSON
WALKER
GORHAM
KLEIN
WILSON

MONSTER ROAD

MARVEL

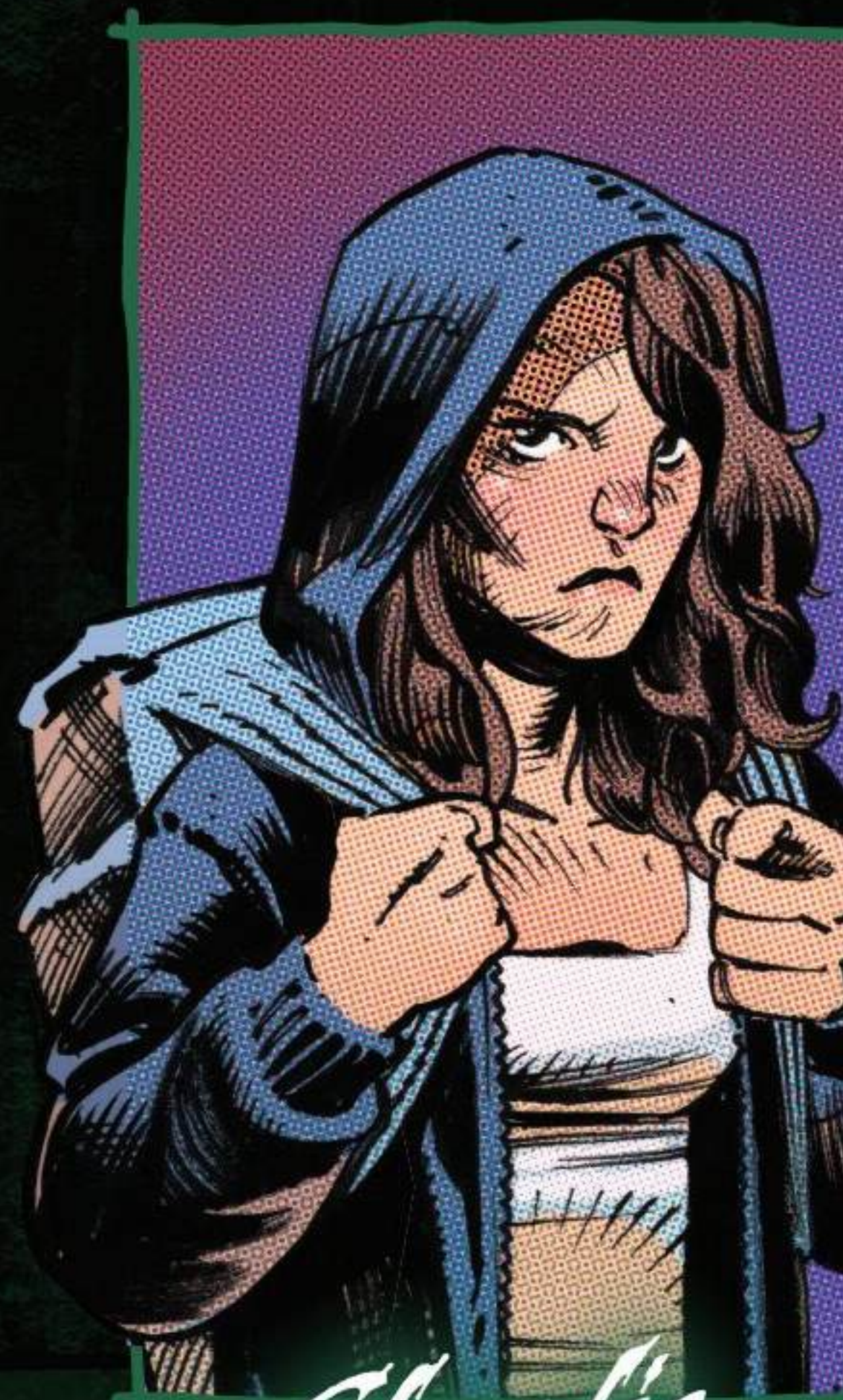
THE INCREDIBLE HULK

Monster Road





Hulk



Charlie

Hulk and his stalwart teenage companion Charlie Tidwell have been dodging pursuit from the primordial being known as Eldest. Eldest covets Hulk's flesh as the key to release the Mother of Horrors from her ancient prison and wishes revenge on Charlie for stealing the GODSKIN, the pelt of the mother of all Skinwalkers, LYCANA, which grants Charlie incredible strength and the ability to transform into a winged wolflike monster. After a run-in with Eldest's Skinwalker minions and a throwdown with THOR, GOD OF THUNDER, Hulk and Charlie want nothing more than to be left alone! They're out of luck on that front though, as BUCKY BARNES, A.K.A. the WINTER SOLDIER, is on the hunt for Bruce Banner, and he always gets his man.

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BRUCE BANNER IS A MAN CONSTANTLY AT WAR WITH HIMSELF, FOR WITHIN HIM IS THE GREEN, RAGE-FUELED, GAMMA-POWERED FORCE OF NATURE KNOWN AS THE HULK. NOW THE HULK'S RAGE IS POINTED AT BRUCE, HUNGRY TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR SHARED BODY ONCE AND FOR ALL. BRUCE LIVES A LIFE ON THE RUN TO PROTECT THE REST OF THE WORLD FROM...

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

Monster Road

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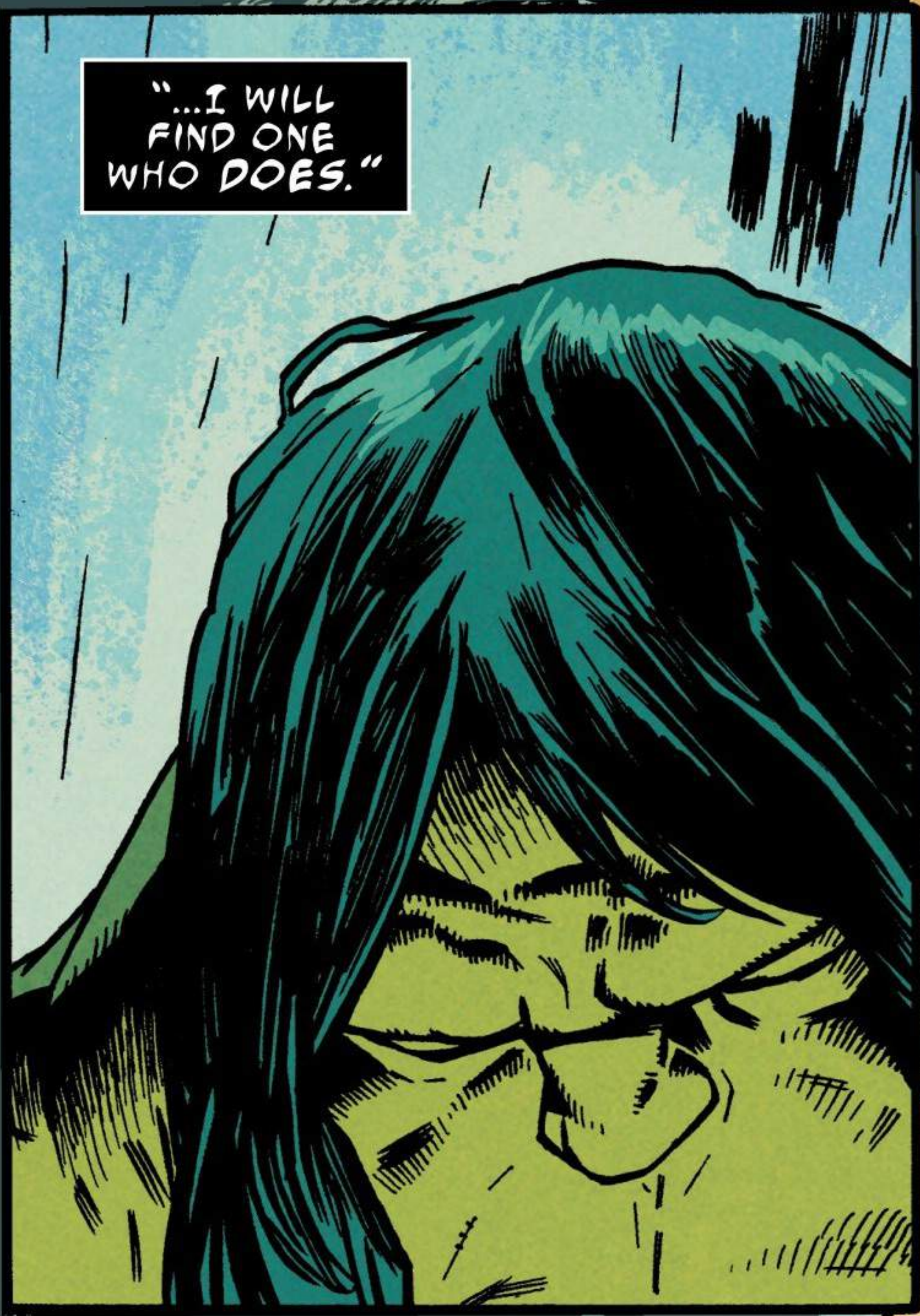
NOT
ENOUGH.

YOU
WEAKLINGS
ARE NOT
ENOUGH.

THIS
DOOR WILL
BE OPENED.

IF NONE OF
YOU HAVE THE
STRENGTH...

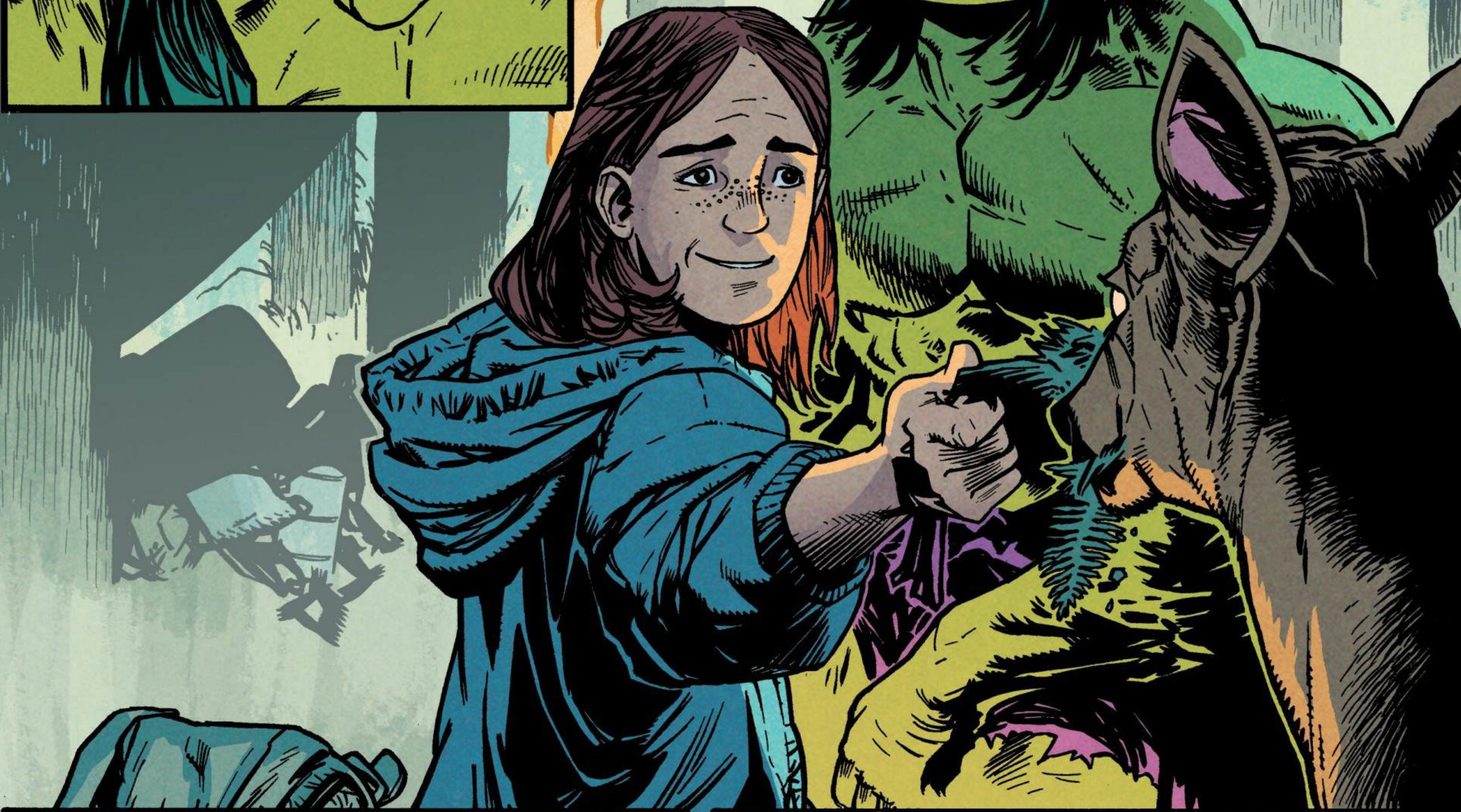
FWOOOSH!



"...I WILL
FIND ONE
WHO DOES."

UPSTATE NEW YORK.

HEY,
LOOK!
FIRST
TIME!



THE ANIMALS
AREN'T SCARED OF
US ANYMORE! THEY RUN
FROM THE **NORMIES**,
BUT NOT FROM
US!



DON'T YOU
THINK THAT'S
COOL?



WELL, I THINK THAT'S COOL. I DON'T FEEL LIKE A MONSTER OUT HERE AT ALL.



WE JUST WEREN'T IN THE RIGHT PLACE BEFORE.



POOM
POOM
POOM



WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM, HULKBUDDY? WHADDYA THINK HE SEES WHEN HE GETS LIKE THAT?



"HRRN. HULK AM HULK. HRRN."

WELL, THAT'S NOT VERY HELPFUL.

POOM

POOM

POOM

"THIS DOOR WILL
BE OPENED."

IF NONE OF
YOU HAVE THE
STRENGTH...

HRRRNN.

WE DON'T
HAVE TO DO
THIS.

I JUST
CAME TO
TALK.

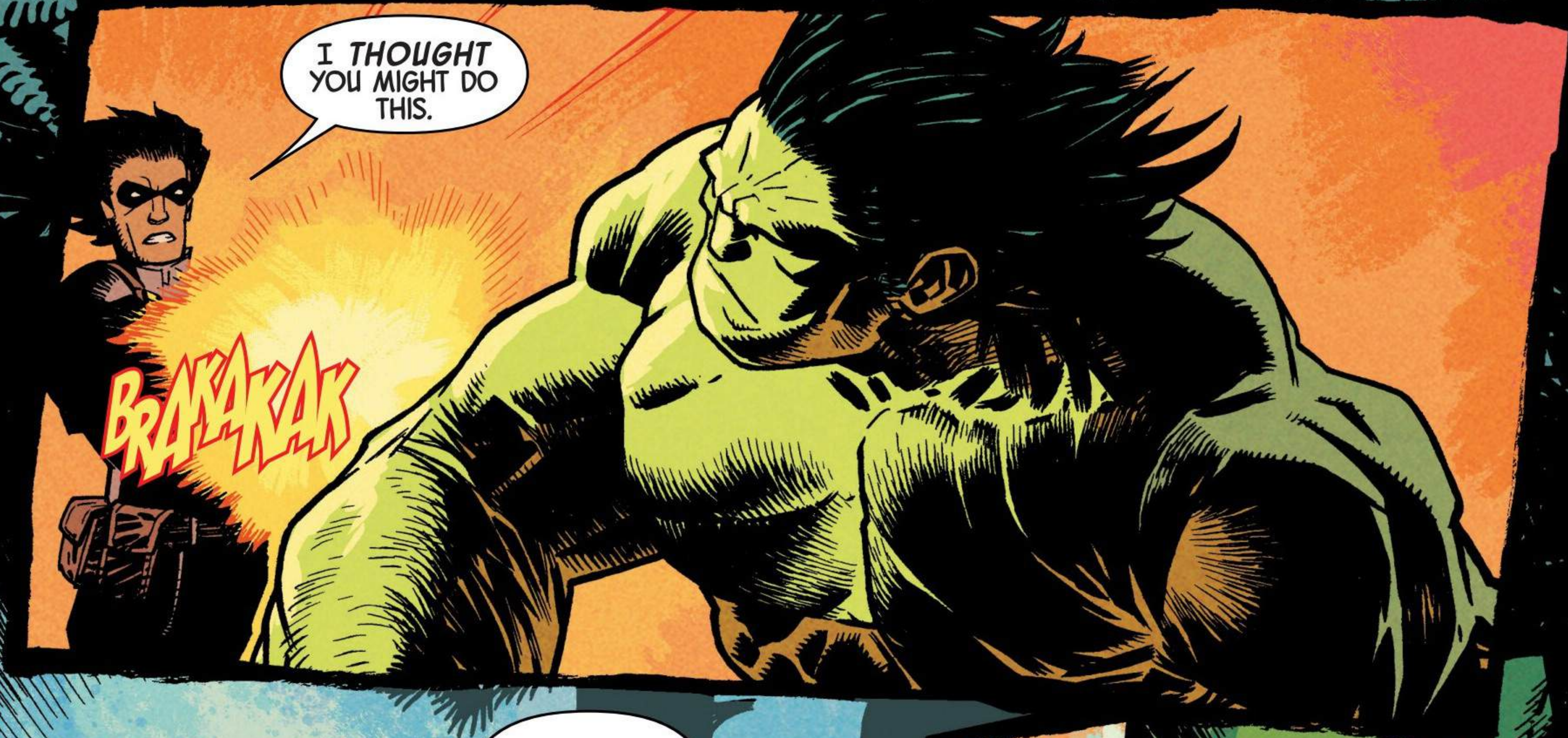
"IF NONE OF
YOU HAVE THE
STRENGTH..."

...I WILL
FIND ONE WHO
DOES.

YOU'RE
WITH HER.

"HER"?
HULK.
DON'T--

#%\$&.



BRUH

THAT MINE
YOU STEPPED ON
CREATES A **TIME-
DISRUPTION
FIELD.**

YOU'RE
MOVING AT
1/50TH NORMAL
SPEED RIGHT
NOW.

I KNOW
YOU'LL GET BACK
TO KILLING ME WHEN
YOU COME DOWN. BUT
THAT SHOULD GIVE ME
TIME TO SAY MY
PIECE.

KA-CHACK!

YOU SAID
"YOU'RE WITH
HER." WHAT DID
YOU MEAN
BY--?

LEAVE HIM ALONE!

BLAMMM

WE'RE NOT HURTING ANYONE!

WHY CAN'T YOU GUYS EVER--?

BACK OFF, KID.

CLICK

THE GROWN-UPS WERE TALKING.

SH
REK
K

HOLY #%\$&.

YOU'RE BUCKY BARNES.

CHARLIE TIDWELL, I PRESUME.

YOU DON'T LOOK MUCH LIKE YOUR YEARBOOK PHOTO.

YOU'RE...MY HERO, BUCKY. NO B.S., YOU AND CAP WERE MY ACTUAL HEROES. I WANTED TO BE YOU SINCE I WAS A LITTLE KID.

I SAW CLEA STRANGE LAST WEEK.

SHE SAID YOU'D FALLEN ASS-BACKWARD INTO SOME POWERS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND Y--

SMASH
YOU.

WHAPP

LIKE I
SMASHED
HER.

HULK, STOP!!!
HE'S NOT WITH
ELDEST!

FOUR GAMMA
MUTATES HAVE
GONE MISSING IN THE
PAST THREE WEEKS,
HULK.

YOU KNOW
ANYTHING ABOUT
THAT?

HRRN?

I DON'T
KNOW IF SOMEONE'S
KIDNAPPING THEM,
KILLING THEM OR
RECRUITING THEM.
BUT IT'S NOT JUST
BAD GUYS.

DOC
SAMSON'S
MISSING...

"...AND SO IS
YOUR SON.

"SKAAR."



TO BE
HONEST,
YOU'RE NOT
THE ONE I
CAME FOR.

LET
ME TALK TO
BANNER.



**BANNER'S
GONE.**



**GO
AWAY.**

**OR YOU'RE
GONNA NEED
MORE ARMS.**



GOOD
LUCK, KID.

IT'S NONE
OF MY BUSINESS
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING HERE.

BUT HULK'S
PARTNERS DON'T
USUALLY COME OUT
SO GOOD.



BEING
STRONGEST
ISN'T THE SAME
AS BEING
INVINCIBLE.

BUCKY!
WAIT!

I'VE GOT
SO MANY
QUESTIONS!

YEAH, I
GUESS I DO
TOO.

I KNOW
HULK CAN BE A JERK,
BUT HE GOT ME OUT OF
A REAL BAD SPOT WITH
MY DAD. HE **SAVED MY
LIFE**. A **BUNCH**
OF TIMES.

WE GO ON
ADVENTURES
TOGETHER, HELP
PEOPLE, LIKE YOU AND
CAP. HE'S A **HERO**, NO
MATTER WHAT PEOPLE
THINK. NO MATTER
WHAT **HE** THINKS,
EVEN.

THAT'S NOT
WHAT **I** SAW BACK
THERE. I SAW HULK
WITHOUT **ANY HINT**
OF BANNER IN
HIM.

NEITHER OF
THEM WILL ADMIT
IT, BUT HULK AND
BANNER NEED EACH
OTHER. A HULK WITHOUT
BANNER IS JUST A
MONSTER.

YOU AND
HULK ARE IN **REAL
DANGER** RIGHT NOW.
AND HULK'S GOT **NO
UNDERSTANDING**
OF DANGER.

WHATEVER'S
COMING, YOU'LL
NEED **BRUCE
BANNER**.

YOU SAID I
WAS YOUR HERO
BEFORE. IF THAT'S
TRUE, I WANT YOU
TO **REALLY
LISTEN**.

I KNOW
BREAKING UP A
TEAM CAN BE HARD.
BUT IF YOU FIND
YOURSELF GOING IN A
DIRECTION YOU DON'T
LIKE, **GET OUT
OF THERE**.

TAKE
IT FROM
ME.

THERE ARE
WAY WORSE
WAYS TO BUST
UP A TEAM THAN
WALKING
AWAY.





BANNER.



ARE
YOU STILL IN
THERE?





HOLY GOD.



BANNER?
A-ARE YOU
IN HERE?

CHARLIE?
WHAT ARE
YOU...HOW
DID YOU FIND
ME?



"MONSTERS
HAVE A WAY OF
FINDING EACH
OTHER," RIGHT?

THE WAR
DEVIL GOT IN
HERE.* I THOUGHT...
MAYBE I
COULD...

*AS SEEN IN
INCREDIBLE
HULK #6-8!
--JDW



BANNER...
IS THIS THE
HULKScape YOU
TALK ABOUT?

IT'S NOT,
RIGHT? THIS
IS SOME TRICK
OF ELDEST'S.

CHARLIE,
IF HULK FINDS
YOU HERE--



GET
OUT.

THE DEER
ATE OUT OF MY
HAND. W-WE'RE NOT
MONSTERS.

WE WERE
JUST IN THE
WRONG PLACE
BEFORE.

CHARLIE,
GET OUT.



HULK
SAVED MY LIFE.
A MONSTER
WOULDN'T DO
THAT.

DON'T
COME IN
HERE.

WE'RE THE
GOOD GUYS,
AND I'M GETTING
YOU OUT
OF--



...OUT
OF...

CHARLIE

...OH
GOD



BANNER?



CHARLIE,
GET OUT

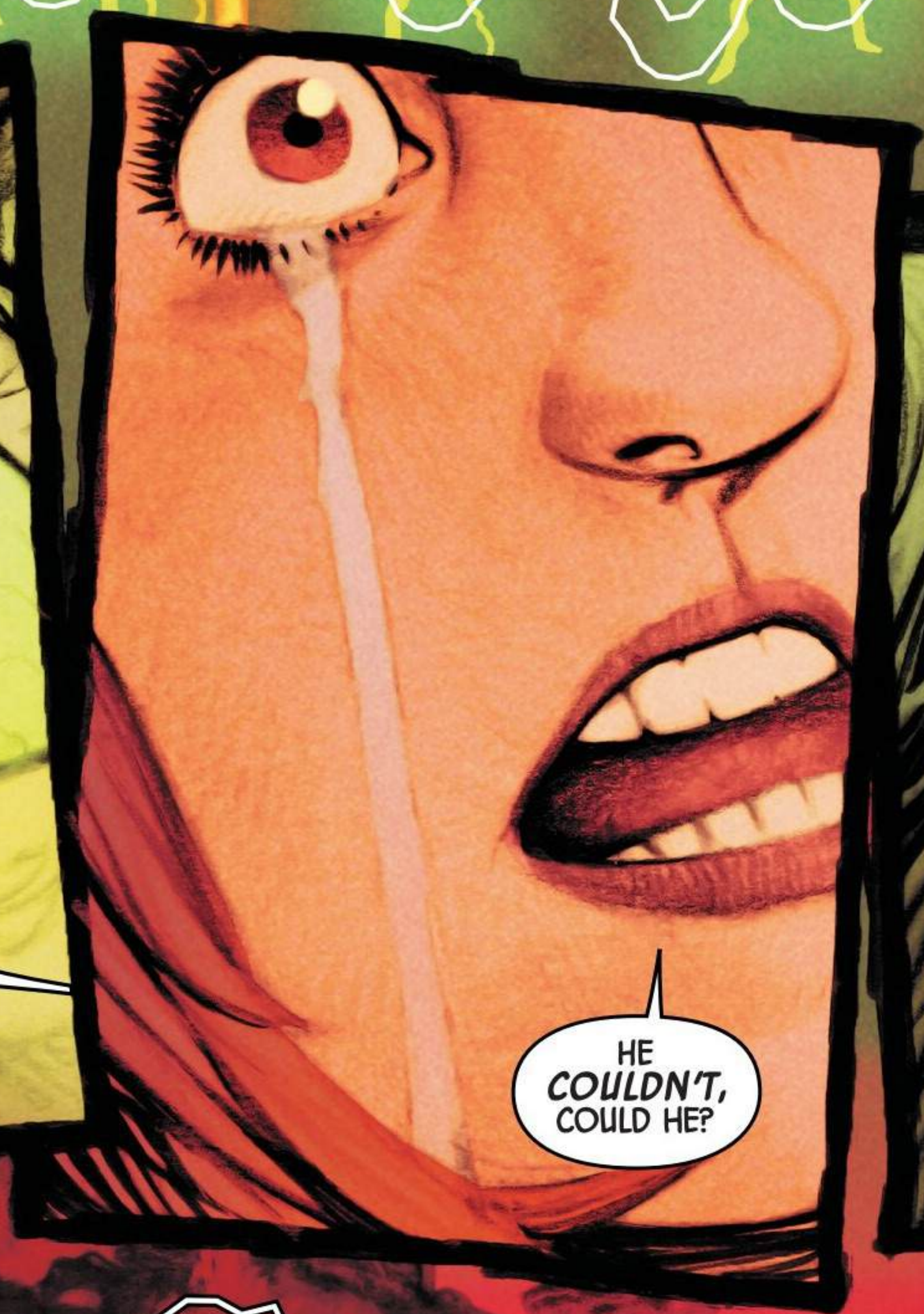


DON'T
LET HIM SEE
YOU

KRAKOOOOOM



BANNER...
DID **HULK** DO
THIS?



HE
COULDN'T,
COULD HE?



WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO--?

KRAKOOOOOM



POOM

POOM

RRRRMMMMBBBLL

NO!!!

HULK, PLEASE!!!

AAAAHH!!!

?!?!?

KID? KID,
WHAT--?

S-STAY
BACK!

DON'T
TOUCH
ME!

AAAUUGGHH--
GET AWAY FROM
ME!

CRACK
CRICK

GET
AWAY FROM
ME!!!

KID,
WHAT--?

WE'RE NOT
MONSTERS!

I SAW
THE HULSCAPE!
I SAW BANNER!
I SAW!

W-WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO
BE THE GOOD
GUYS!

CREEAAAK

EXCEPT WE
ARE!!!

SNAP
RIPPP

WE'RE JUST
MONSTERS,
LIKE ALL THE
STUFF WE
KILLED!

WE'RE
JUST LIKE
THEM!!!

SHRRRIIIIIIPPP



I DON'T
WANT TO BE
LIKE THEM!!!





TENNESSEE.
WEEK ONE.

SMASH!

KLANG
KLANNNNG!

SHWISH,
SHWOOSH!

RAAAAAH!

SHOOOOOM!

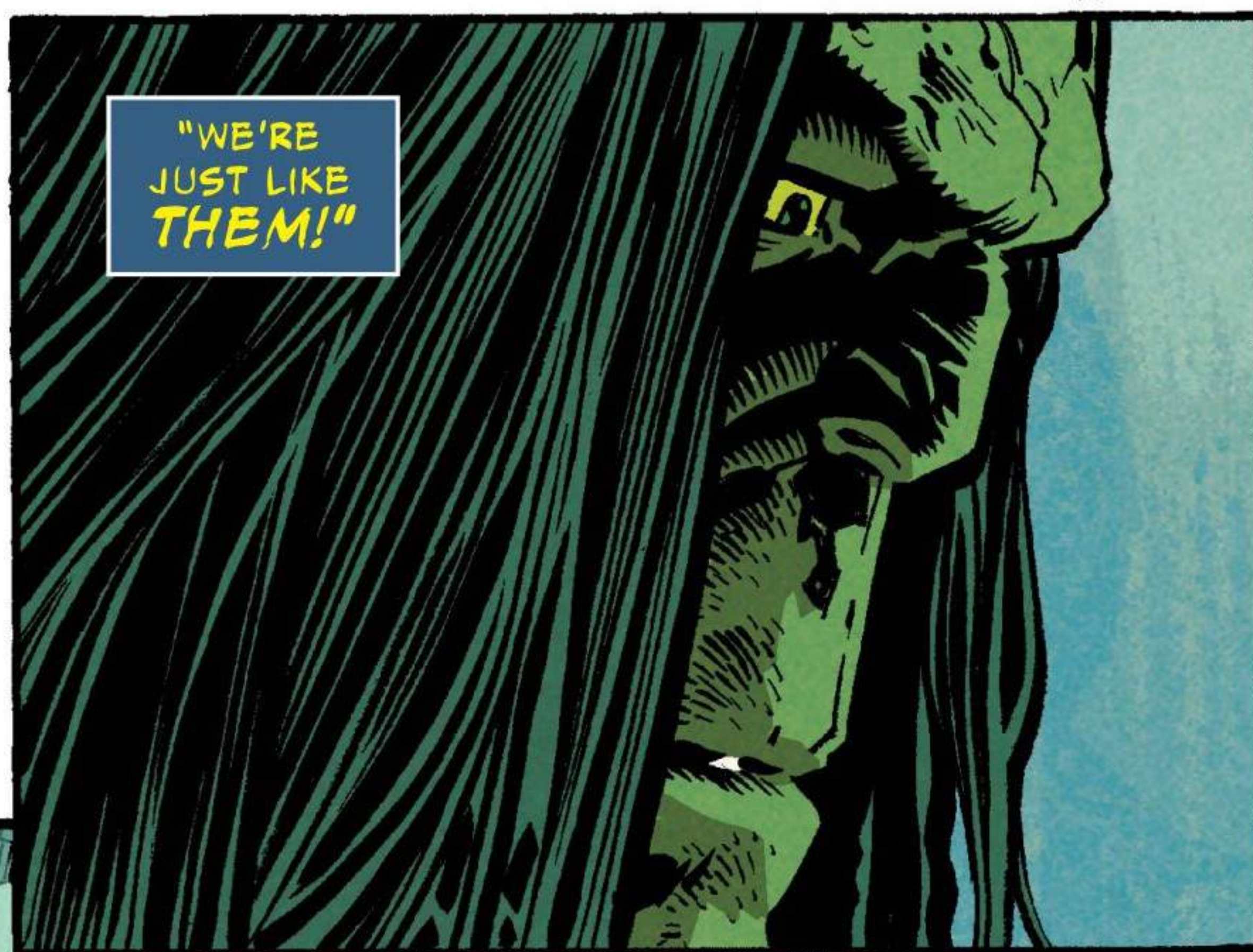
KSSSHH!

KLANG
KLA--



THESE ARE
MY WOODS! I
PLAY HERE.

SEE? I DID
THAT DRAWLIN'
BEFORE. THAT'S OUR
BUS, THAT'S MY MOM
AND THAT'S MY
LITTLE SISTER.





YOU
SHOULDN'T GO
THAT WAY.



IT GOES BY
THE **FALLING-
DOWN TREE.**

YOU
SHOULDN'T GO
THERE.



WHY'RE
YOU BY
YOURSELF?

OUR **BUS** IS
CLOSE TO HERE.
WE LIVE IN IT.

ME, MAMA,
DADDY AND BABY
SISTER.



...YOUR
BUS.

UH-HUH.
DADDY BUILDS STUFF.
HOUSES AND STUFF. WHEN
HE GETS A JOB IN A NEW
TOWN, WE GO THERE
IN THE **BUS.**

BUT
SOMETIMES
HE GETS ANGRY,
AND WE GOTTA
LEAVE AGAIN.



ANGRY.

UH-HUH.



WEEK TWO.



ARE YOU A
HERO? LIKE THE
REVENGERS?

NO.

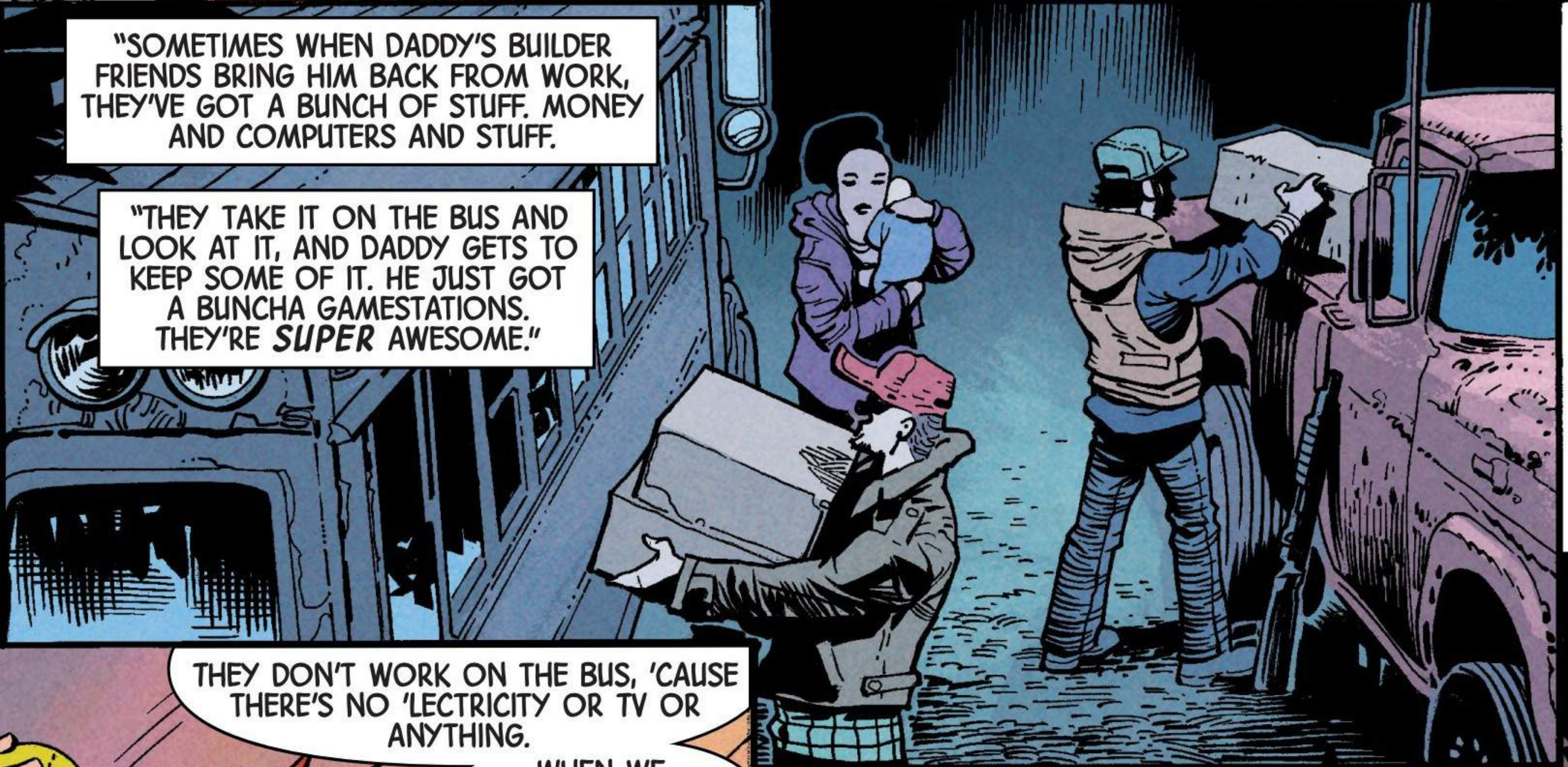


IF YOU WAS,
I WAS GONNA
SEE IF YOU COULD
GET US A HOUSE WITH
A TV IN IT. DADDY JUST
GOT US A BUNCH OF
GAMESTATIONS.

?

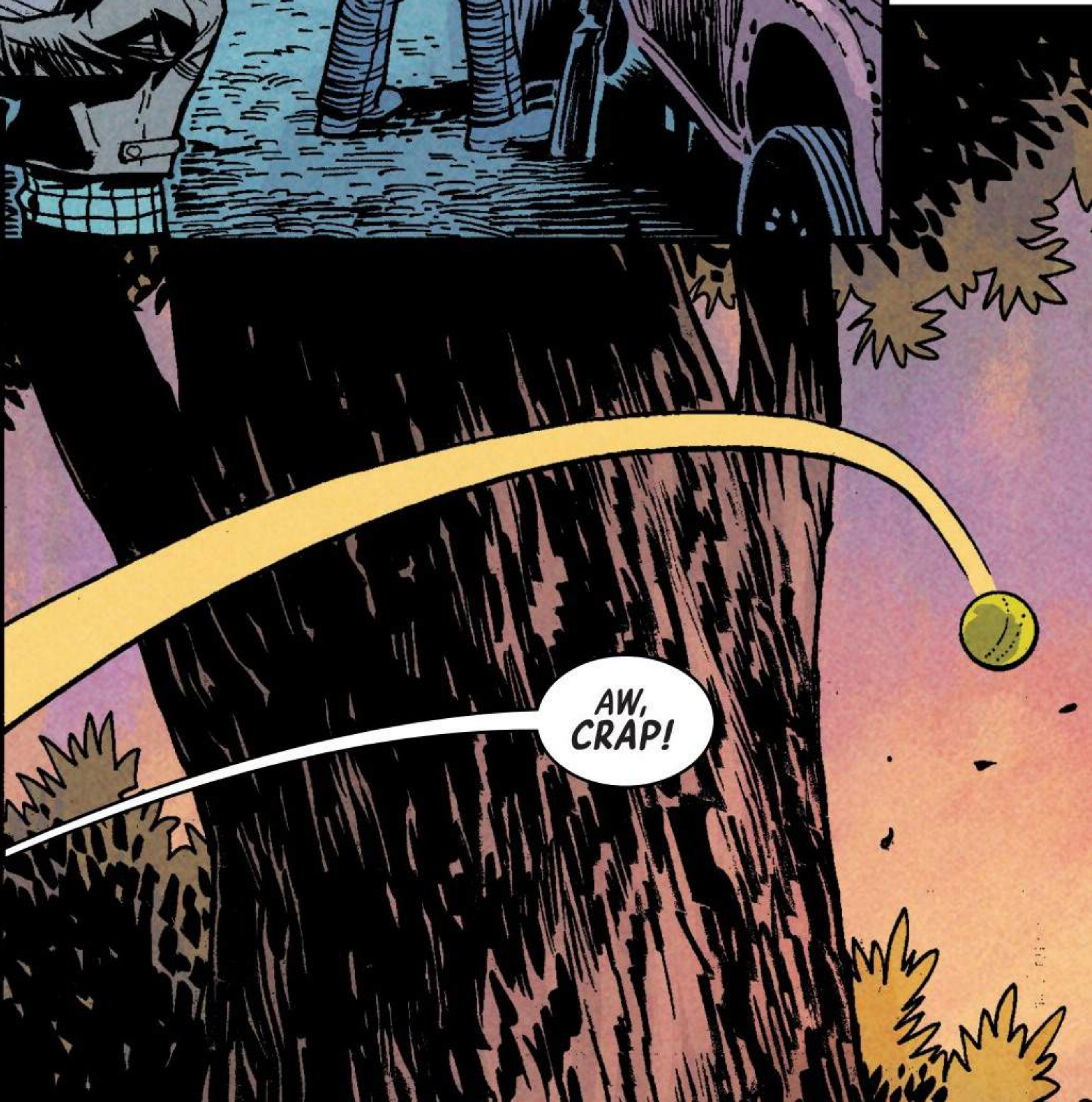
"SOMETIMES WHEN DADDY'S BUILDER
FRIENDS BRING HIM BACK FROM WORK,
THEY'VE GOT A BUNCH OF STUFF. MONEY
AND COMPUTERS AND STUFF.

"THEY TAKE IT ON THE BUS AND
LOOK AT IT, AND DADDY GETS TO
KEEP SOME OF IT. HE JUST GOT
A BUNCHA GAMESTATIONS.
THEY'RE *SUPER AWESOME*."

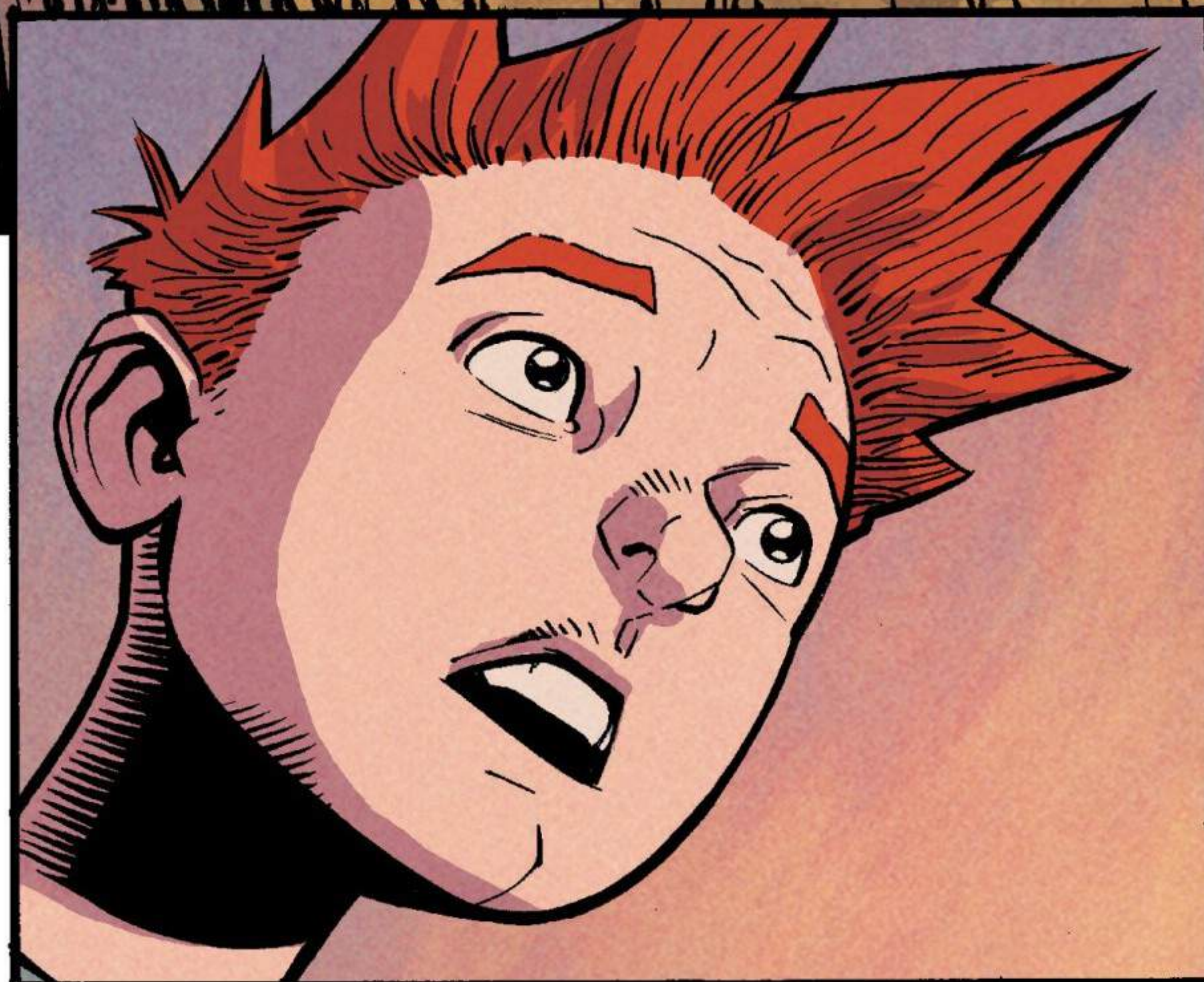


THEY DON'T WORK ON THE BUS, 'CAUSE
THERE'S NO 'LECTRICITY OR TV OR
ANYTHING.

WHEN WE
GET A TV AND A
HOUSE, MAMA SAID
WE'RE GONNA--



AW,
CRAP!



WEEK THREE.



POOM
POOM



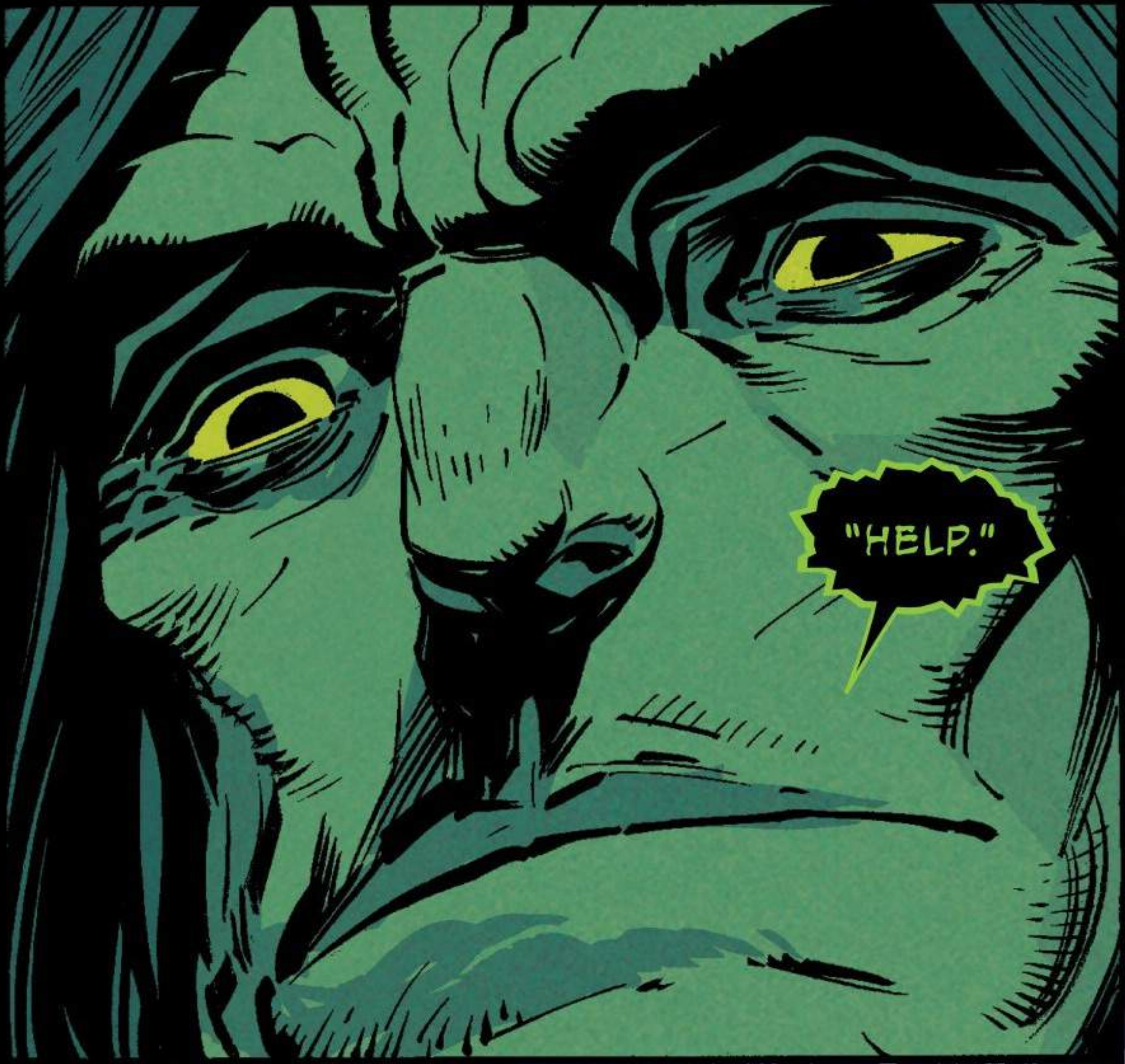
YOU
LIED TO THAT
KID.

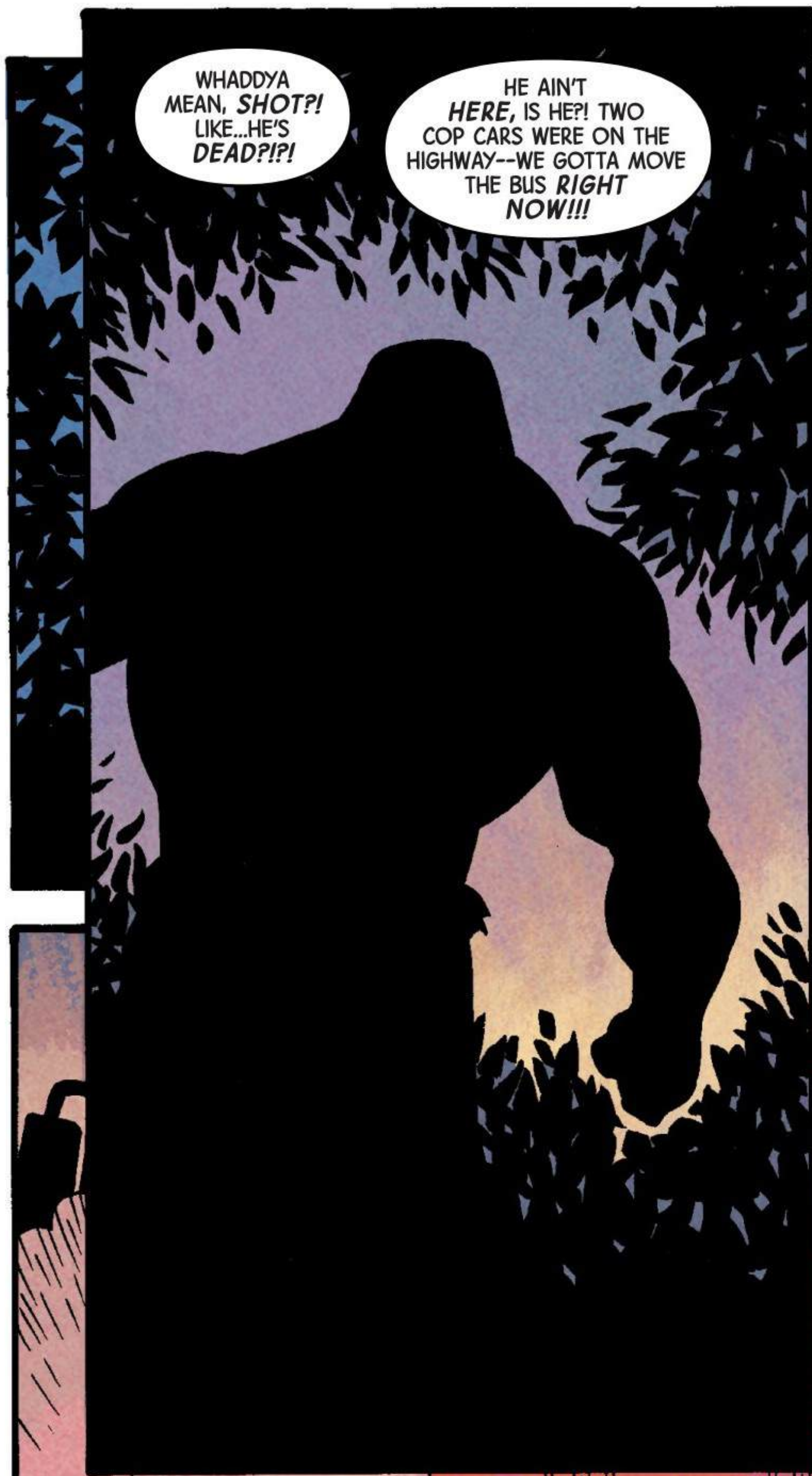


DIDN'T
LIE, BANNER.
WE'RE NOT A
HERO.

WE
COULD BE
AGAIN.

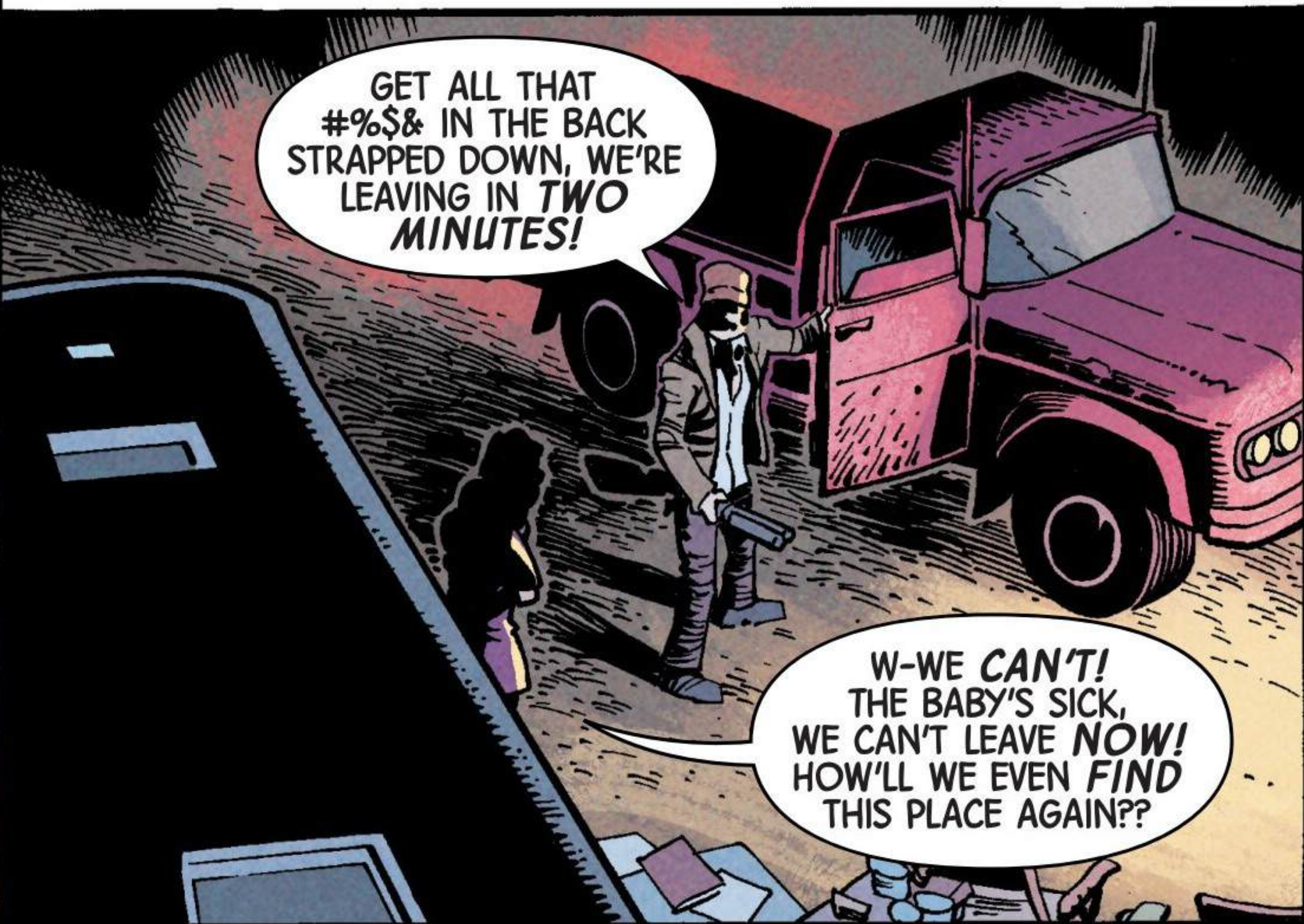
YOU KNOW
THAT FAMILY ISN'T
SAFE WITH THAT GUY.
WE COULD HELP
THEM.





WHADDYA
MEAN, **SHOT?**!
LIKE...HE'S
DEAD?!!

HE AIN'T
HERE, IS HE? TWO
COP CARS WERE ON THE
HIGHWAY--WE GOTTA MOVE
THE BUS **RIGHT**
NOW!!!



GET ALL THAT
#%\$& IN THE BACK
STRAPPED DOWN, WE'RE
LEAVING IN **TWO**
MINUTES!

W-WE **CAN'T!**
THE BABY'S SICK,
WE CAN'T LEAVE **NOW!**
HOW'LL WE EVEN **FIND**
THIS PLACE AGAIN??



WE AIN'T **EVER** COMING BACK
HERE. GUY SAW MY FACE, THIS
PLACE IS **BURNED**
FOR US.

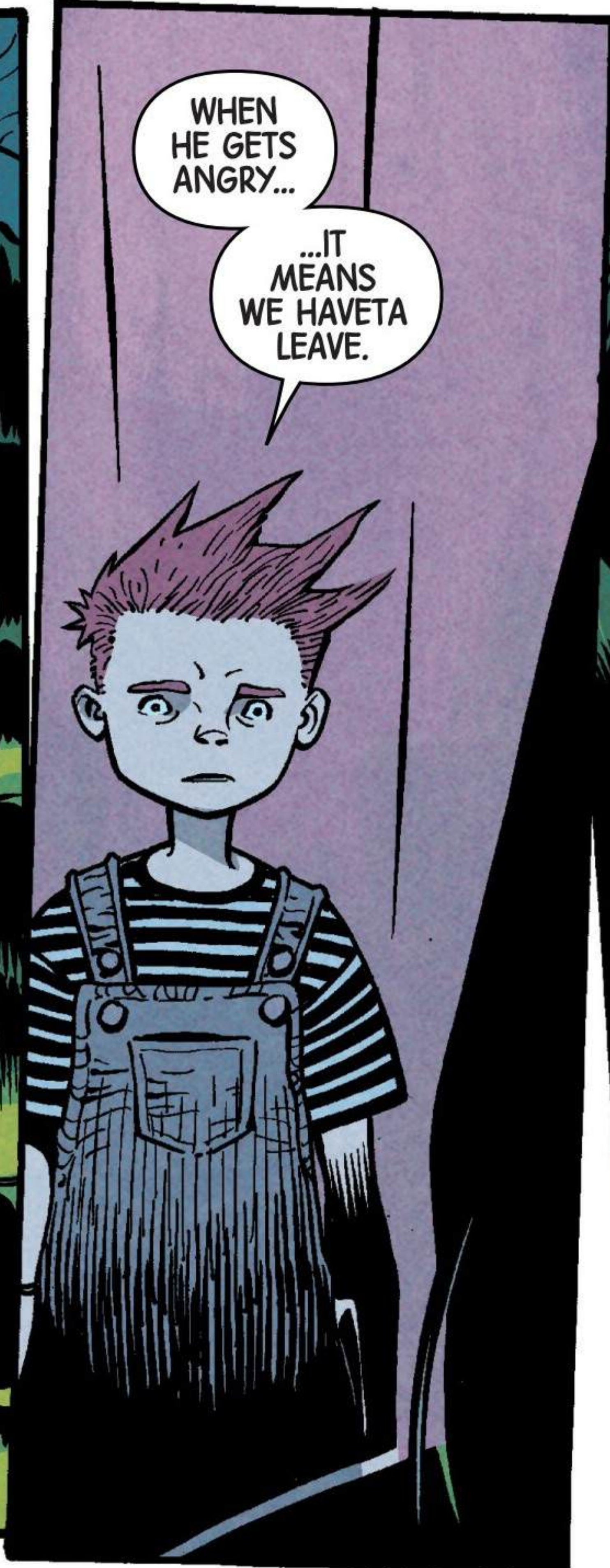
W-WELL THEN,
WE'RE **NOT**
LEAVIN'!

WE CAN'T
LEAVE PETEY,
BABY, YOU CAN'T
JUST **LEAVE**
HIM!



"**LEAVE**
HIM"?

HE'S
ANGRY
AGAIN.



WHEN
HE GETS
ANGRY...

...IT
MEANS
WE HAVETA
LEAVE.



WHAT DID
SHE MEAN,
"**LEAVE**"--?

WE CAN'T
JUST **LEAVE**
HIM!



WE CAN'T!!!
WE'VE GOTTA
MOVE HIM OR TELL
SOMEONE OR--

YOU WANT
ME TO GO TO JAIL?!?
YOU PROBABLY WOULD
LIKE THAT, WOULDN'T
YA?

N-NO!
BUT BABY, WE
CAN'T--

WAAAAA



WILL
YOU SHUT
UP?!?!
CRACK

WAAAAA...
AAAAHHH...
AAAAHHH!



EITHER GET ON
THE DAMN BUS, OR
CALL YOUR MOM TO COME'N
GET YOU AGAIN IF YOU
DON'T WANNA BE
HERE.

"DON'T
WANNA BE
HERE"?

I--I STAYED.
EVEN AFTER
EVERYTHING, I STAYED,
AND NOW YOU'RE
GONNA LEAVE?!?!
I WON'T
LEAVE MY
PETEY UNDER
THAT TREE!

I WON'T
LEAVE MY
PETEY UNDER
THAT TREE!





POOM
POOM
POOM

POOM

→GASP←

I-IT
WASN'T
ME.

PLEASE
DON'T KILL
US.

I-I-I'll KEEP
ASHLEY SAFE. I'll
TAKE HER TO MY
MOM'S.

I'll TELL THE
POLICE WHAT MY
HUSBAND DONE. I'll
TURN MYSELF IN. I'll
TELL 'EM...WHERE
PETEY IS.

I-I CAN'T
MAKE IT RIGHT...
BUT I'll...→SNIFF←
I'll...

PLEASE.
→SOB←

PLEASE
DON'T KILL
ME.

WAAAAAAAAHHH...AAAAHHH...

"I'M NOT A MONSTER."

VRRRRRRR



NOT GETTIN' KILLED OR GOIN' TO JAIL FOR YOUR DUMB, SLOW ASS, TRAVIS.

YOU CAN DIE BY YOURSELF, AND---

POW

POW

THE HELL IS THAT NOISE AGAIN?

IF THAT STUPID %#\$% MESS'D UP MY GENNIE, I SWEAR TO GOD...

POW

POW







GLUPP
GLUPP

SPACK
SPECK

FOOO
OOOMP



RRROOAAARRR

...N-NO.

YUH...
Y-YOU AIN'T
REAL.

HE'S
STILL OUT
THERE.

IN THE
WOODS.

A
MONSTER
KILLED HIM.



BOOM

AAAAHHH
#%\$&!!!

MONSTER.

FOOOOOMP

BOOM

YAAAAUUUGH!!

MONSTER.

MONSTER.

BOOM

STAY
BACK! STAY
BAAAACK!!!

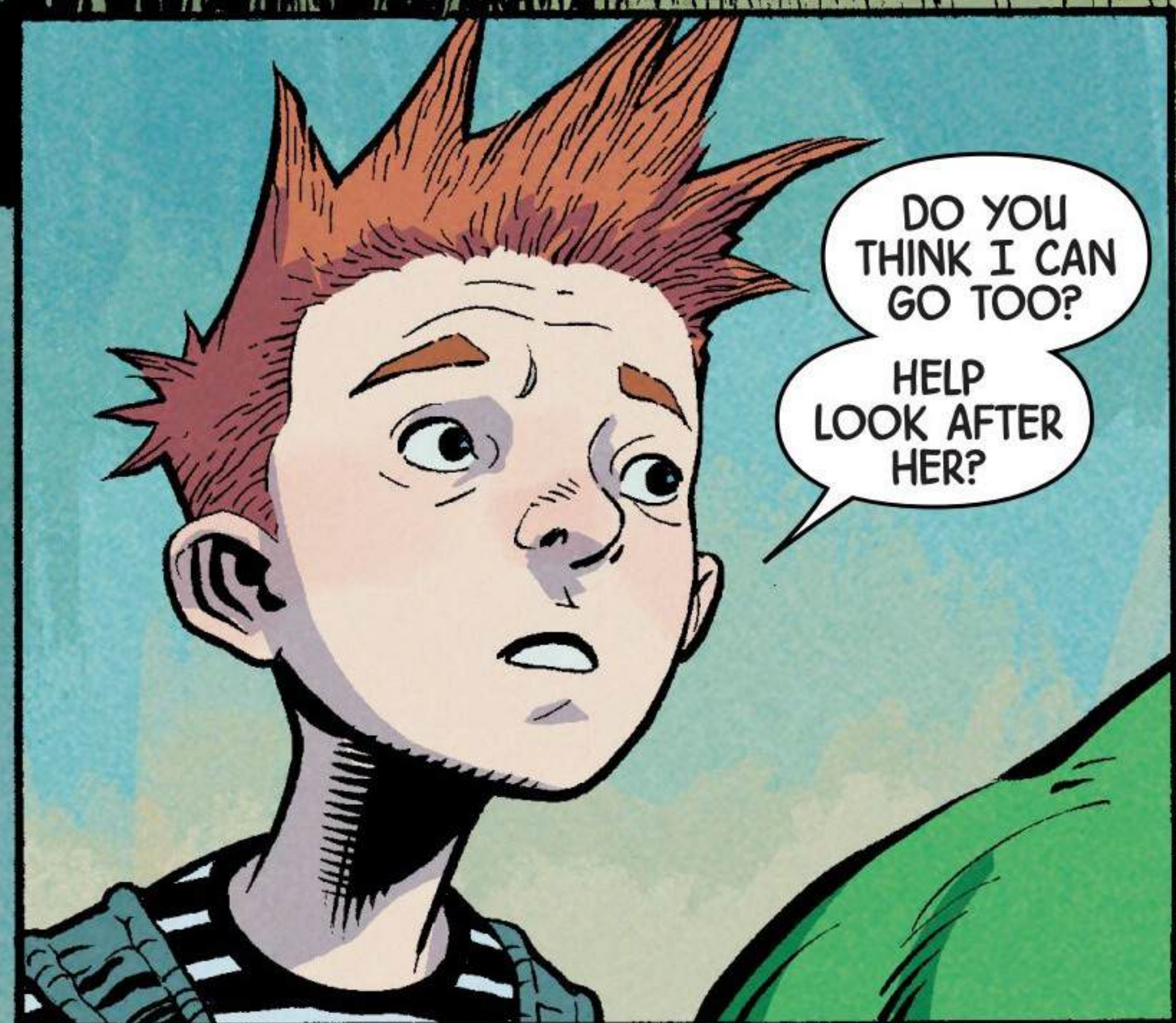
FEY
YAAUGH

WEEK FOUR.



MY LITTLE
SISTER'S GONNA
LIVE AT GRANDMA'S
HOUSE NOW.

YEAH.



DO YOU
THINK I CAN
GO TOO?
HELP
LOOK AFTER
HER?

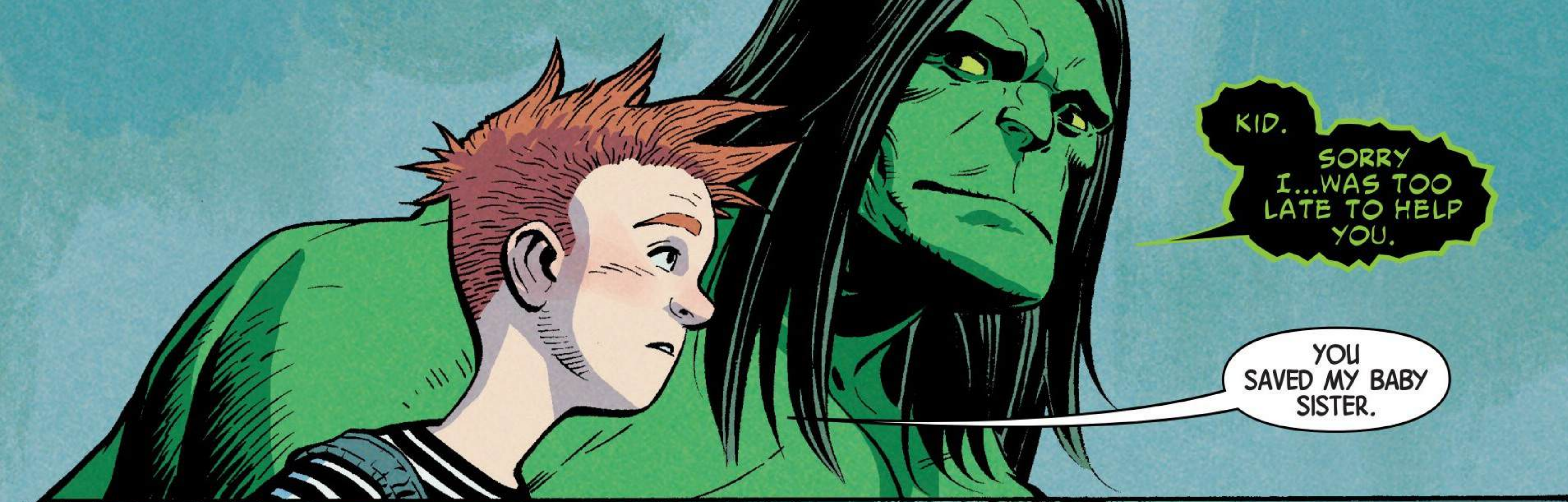


YOU
SHOULD GO
WHERE YOU
WANT.

THERE'S
NO RULES
WHEN...

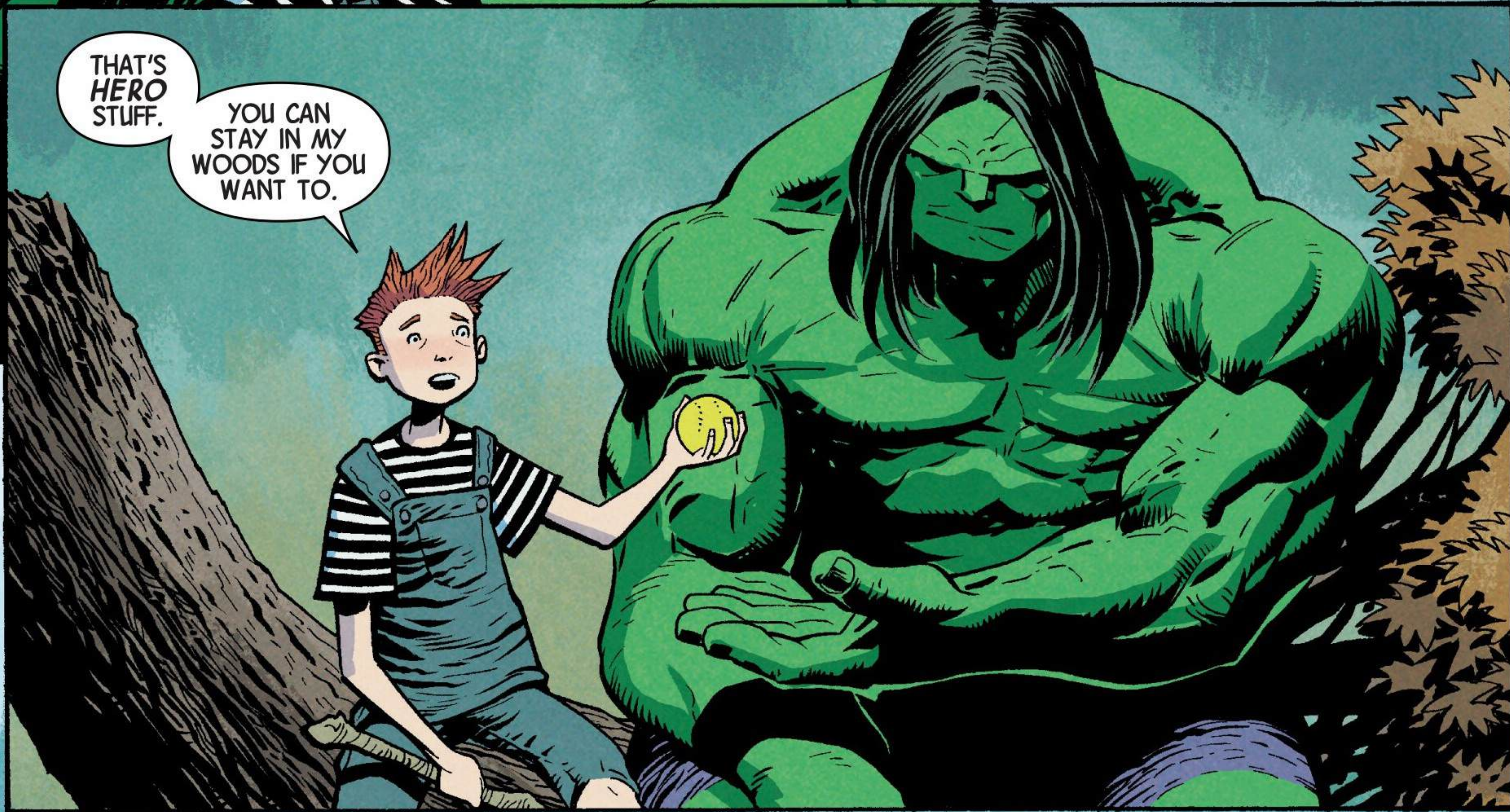


...WHEN
NOBODY'S
LOOKING
FOR YOU.



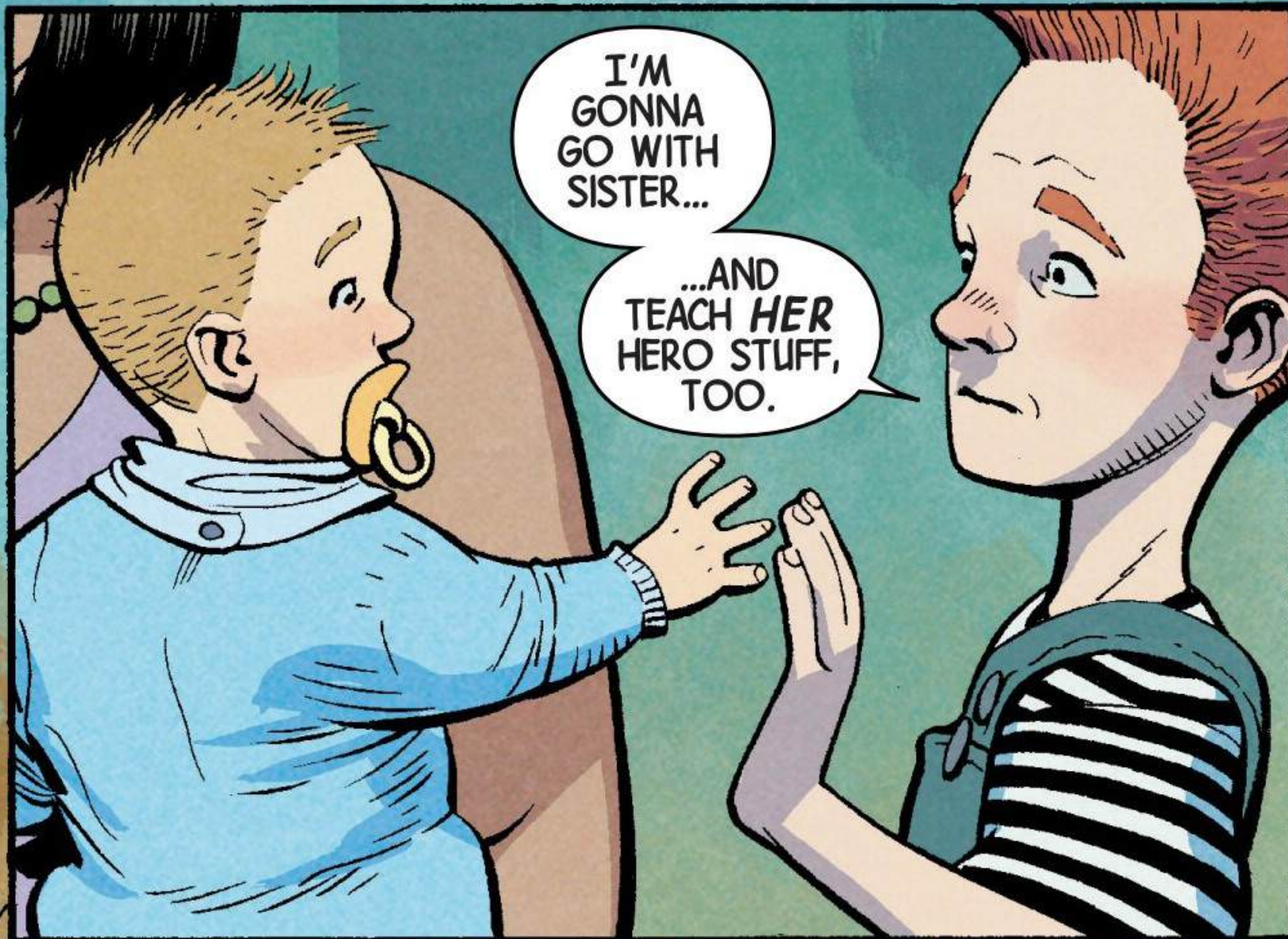
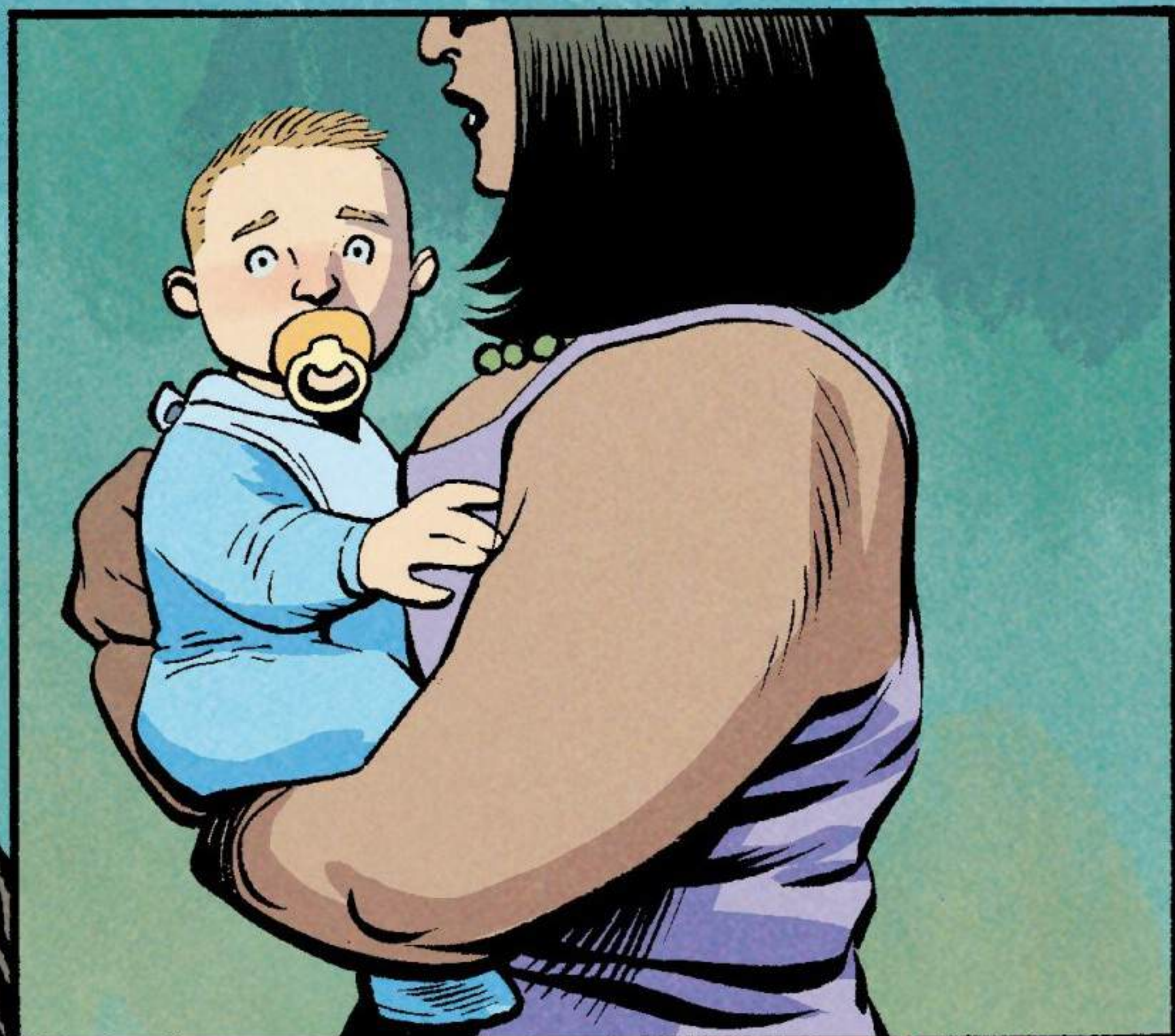
KID.
SORRY
I...WAS TOO
LATE TO HELP
YOU.

YOU
SAVED MY BABY
SISTER.



THAT'S
HERO
STUFF.

YOU CAN
STAY IN MY
WOODS IF YOU
WANT TO.



I'M
GONNA
GO WITH
SISTER...

...AND
TEACH **HER**
HERO STUFF,
TOO.



THE REMEMBRANCES OF ELDEST

HENRY LANG

Not all children of the Mother of Horrors began thus.

Some of our kind are born from the flesh of immortals, or summoned from ancient wells, or given breath from the wood of hangman's trees. Great of limb, fearsome and strong, undying. But others are mortal, no stronger than their feeble human kin, their true nature as hidden as the predator insect that imitates the flora.

Such a one was Henry Lang, killer of travelers and of children.

Even for a mortal man, Lang was a creature of few gifts, weak and stupid. For the strong, the wise, and the beautiful, he knew only contempt, for he had no place among them. He did only the simplest work and only when he must, preferring to steal when he could. He left the pursuit of virtue and the building of great works to others.

But though he knew it not, Henry Lang was special. Within him he carried a seed of corruption that marked him as a child of our Infernal Mother, a seed waiting to find purchase. It lay not in his blood or birthright, but in his mind and blackest appetites.

As Lang grew to manhood, his tribe kept him wrapped in their god's childish teachings. His heart remained untouched by them, but he found it easiest to pretend, to wear false trappings of his people's faith. He cared nothing for god nor fellowship, and their church was of no use to him...until it presented him to one particular young girl.

Pleasant of countenance, but not beautiful; kind-spoken, but not virtuous; bright, but not clever. Though other females frightened him, this one Lang found unthreatening, made vulnerable by trust and a kind spirit. Here was one he could control, dominate, degrade and hurt without challenge... and within his mind, the seed of his corruption was nourished.

That winter Lang put a baby in the



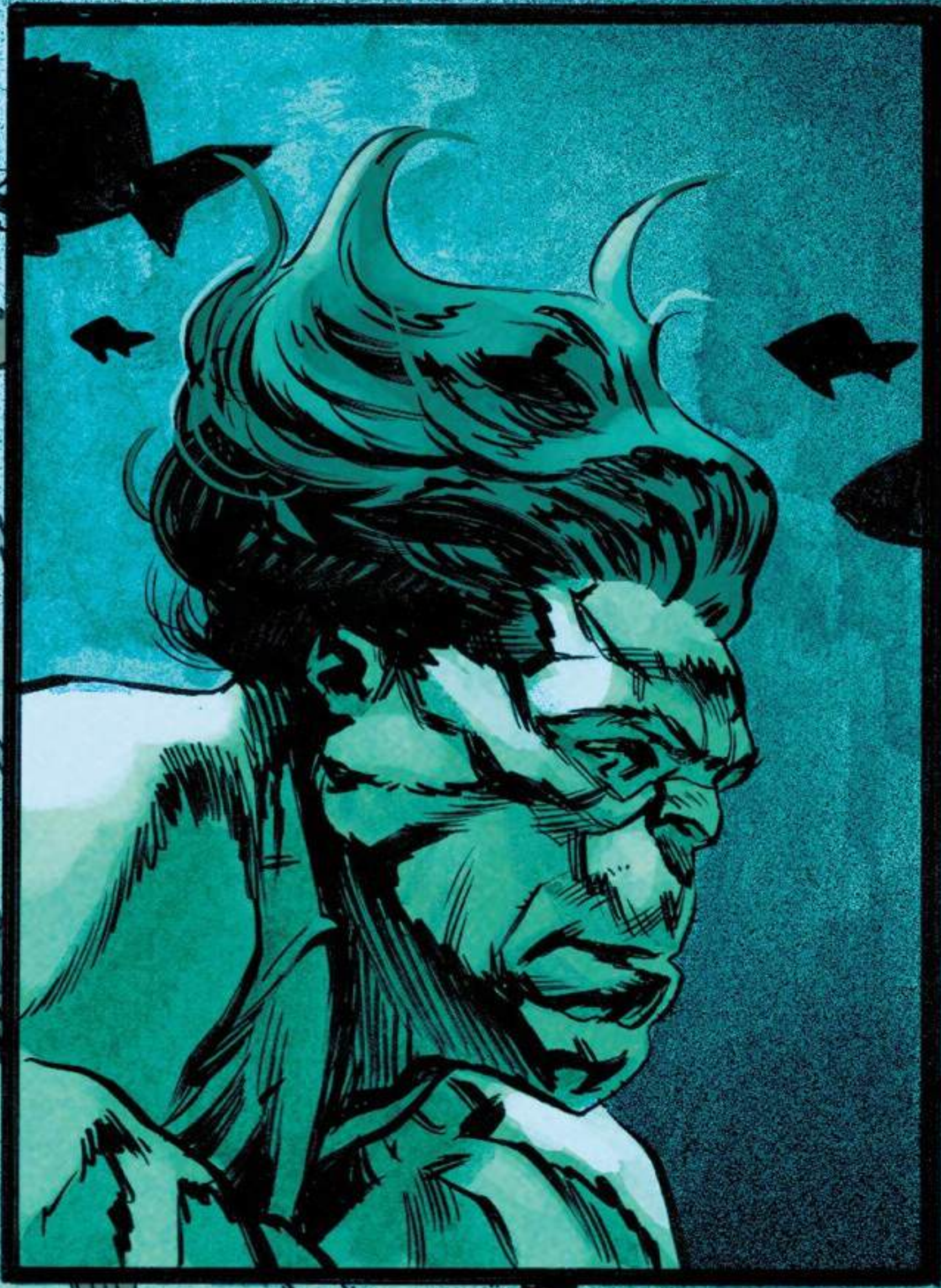
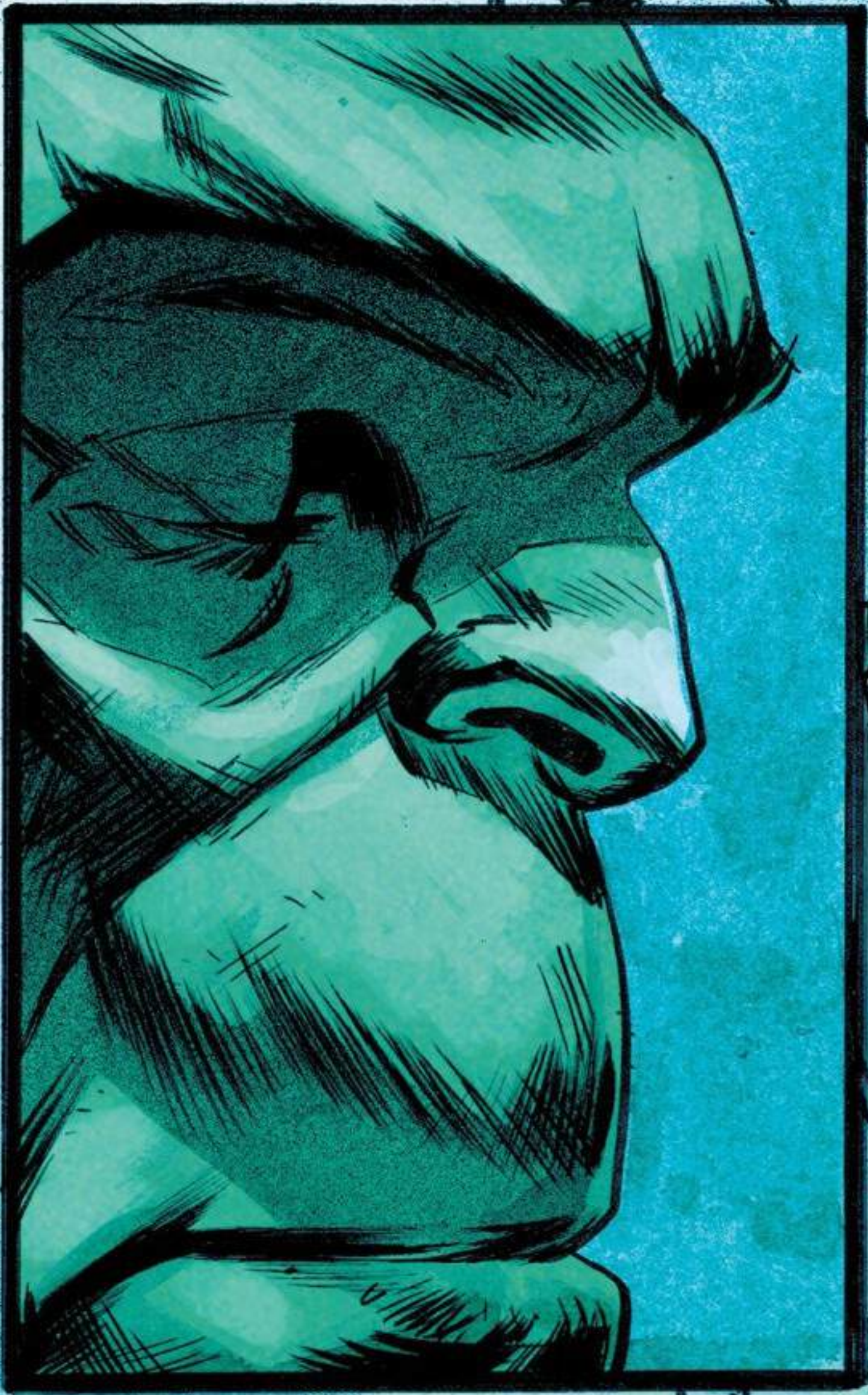
girl's belly, and her fate was chained to his. In the months and years that followed, anytime they were alone together, Lang's cruel urges grew ever stronger. He isolated the girl from her family and tribe, took her money and freedoms, until she had only him...him and the child she had given him.

As Lang's torments grew more savage, his taste for theft grew violent as well, until at last he was shunned from his tribe, forced to turn to the company of thieves. He made the road his home, and he became a predator of all those foolish enough to trust him, and any he deemed weaker than himself.

Now Henry Lang has met the Fractured Son, to his sorrow. Punished for his crimes, his ashes lay scattered in the mud and the trees, and not even his surviving child will know his name. By the time spring comes, he will be utterly forgotten by the world of men.

But I remember you, Henry Lang, butcher of innocents. Our Mother of Horrors remembers you. My brother who comes to our house through violence, excess, or madness is no less my brother. Though you do not live to see our Age of Monsters, know that it begins before the next cycle of the moon...and that your killer will be the one to usher it into the world.





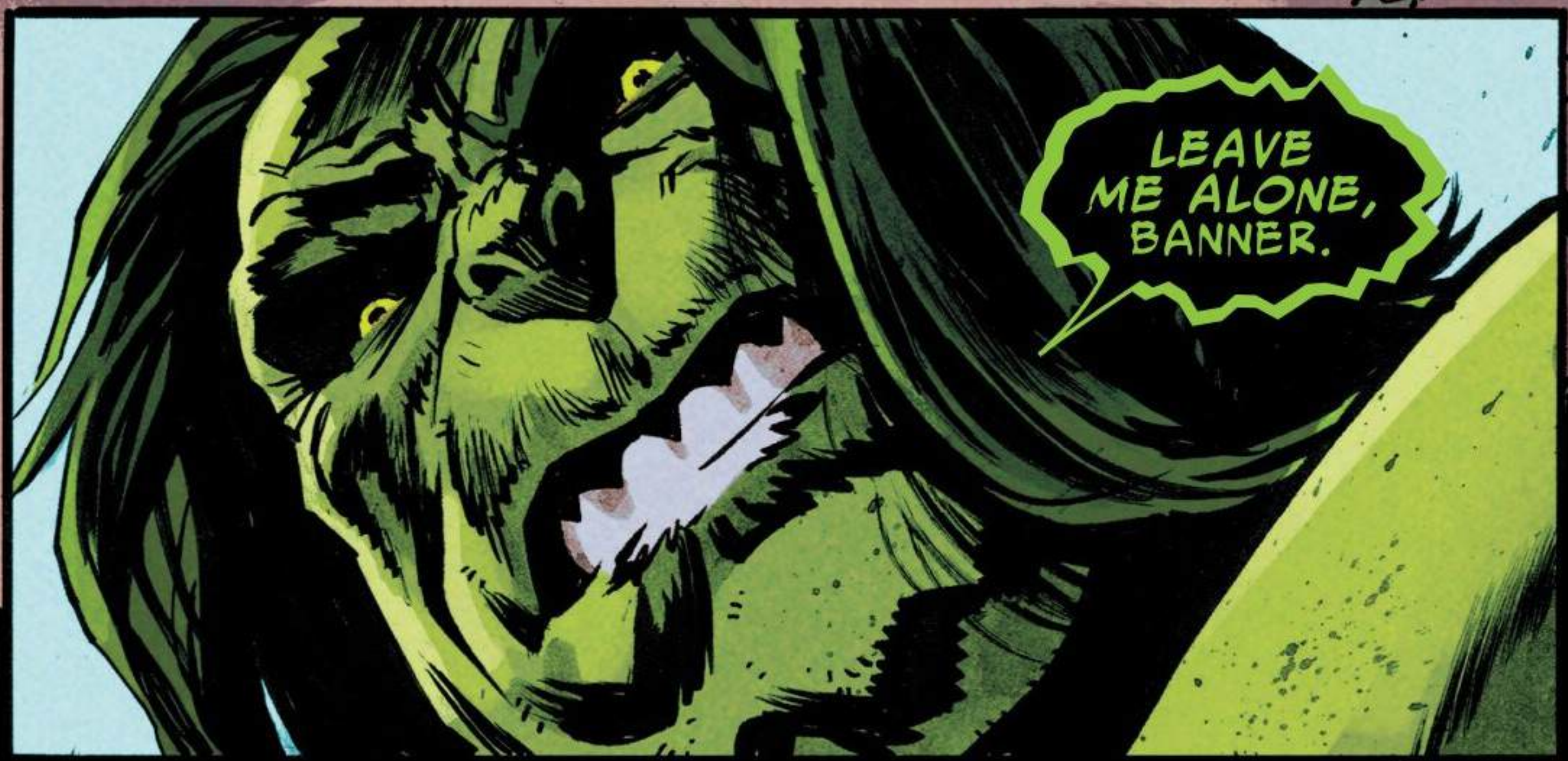




...HRRN?



PROTECT
DOCTOR
WOODOO



LEAVE
ME ALONE,
BANNER.



POOOOOM

ONLY
DANGER
IS YOU.





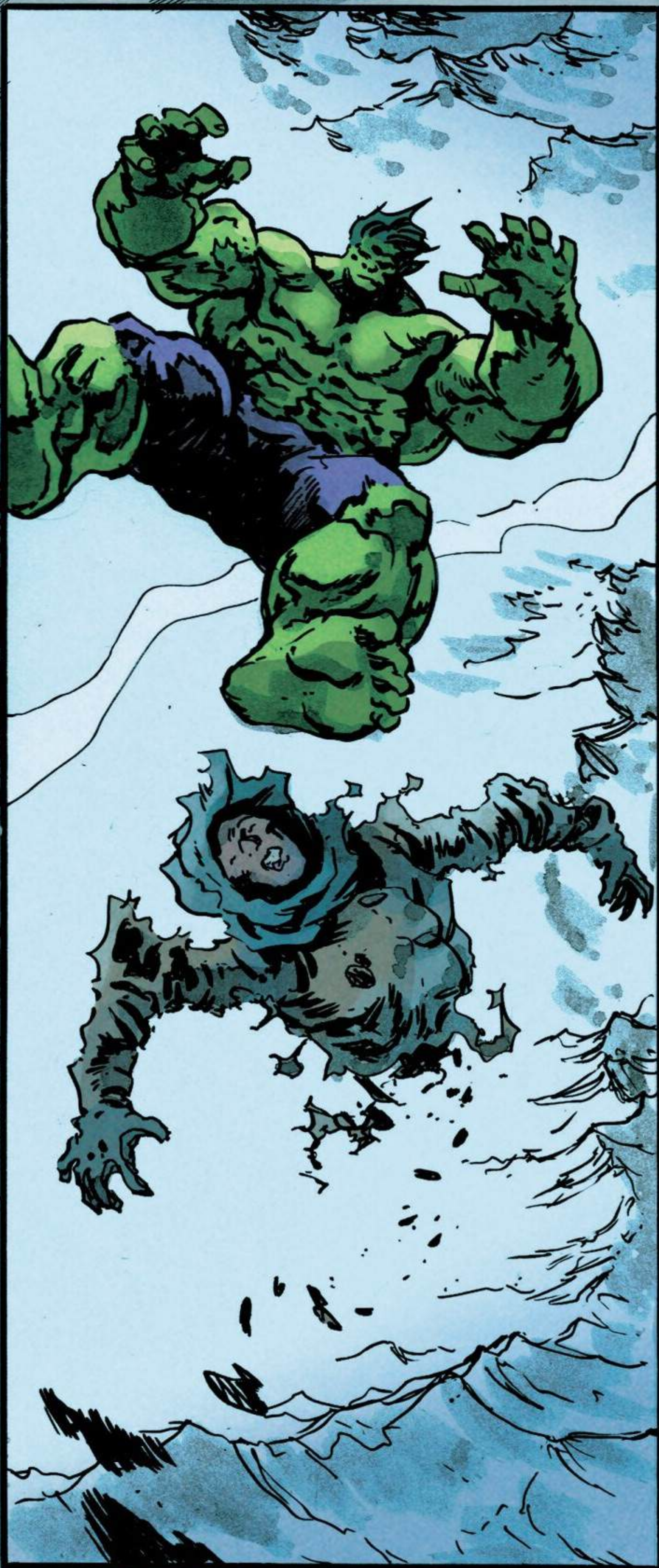
AT LAST.



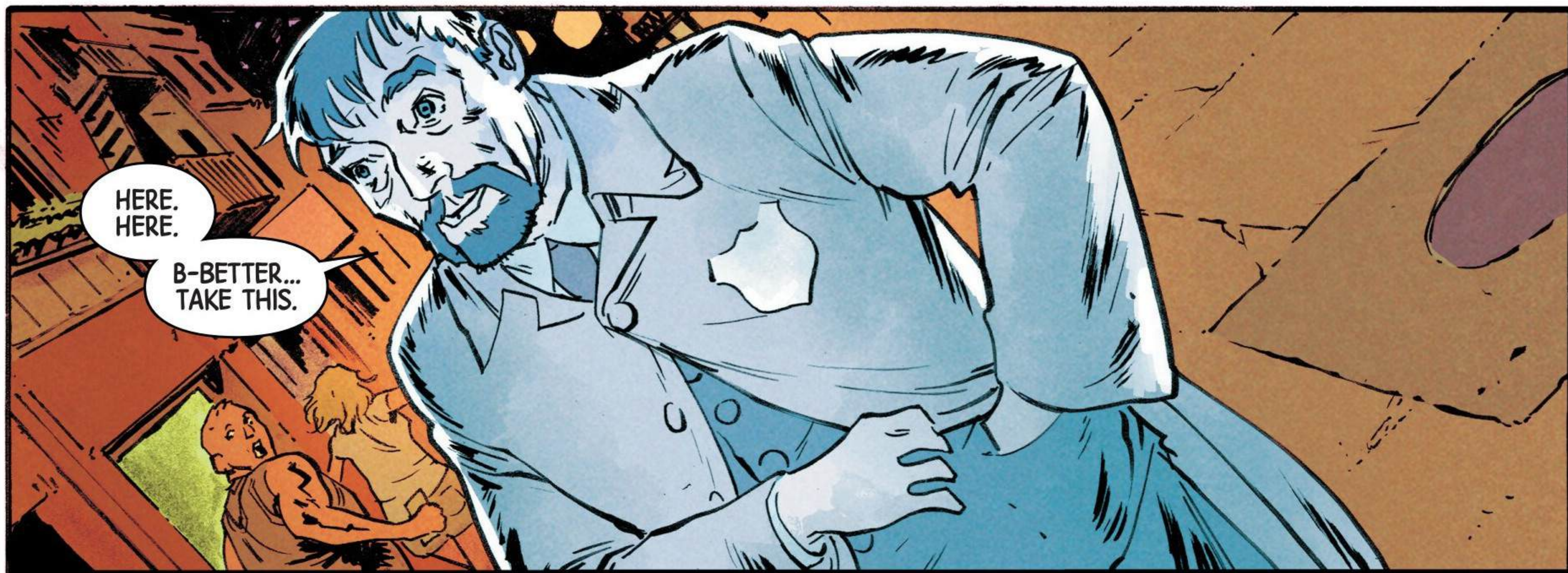
THE SEAL WEAKENS, FRACTURED SON.



SOON YOUR FLESH WILL BE MINE.









OH NO.

APPEARS
WE MAY BE...
T-TOO LATE.



THIS IS THE...
THE P-POOR OLD
WILTSHIRE HOUSE.
CONSTRUCTED FOR
ADMIRAL THOMAS
WILTSHIRE FROM
1872 TO 1874.

S-SAT
DERELICT FROM
1966...TILL COMING INTO
THE OWNERSHIP OF A
DR. S-STEPHEN
STRANGE, M.D....



...BECOMING
STRANGE
ACADEMY UNDER
THE STEWARDSHIP OF
A MR. JERICO
DRUMM...



...ANSWERING
TO THE CURIOUS
NAME OF "DOCTOR
VOODOO."



HNN.

M-MISTER DRUMM?

ARE YOU... HERE?

HM.



S-SEEMS SPIDERS HAVE THE...R-RUN OF THE PLACE NOW.



O-OH MY.

THESE ARE MADE FROM BONE, IRON AND... ADIPOCERE.



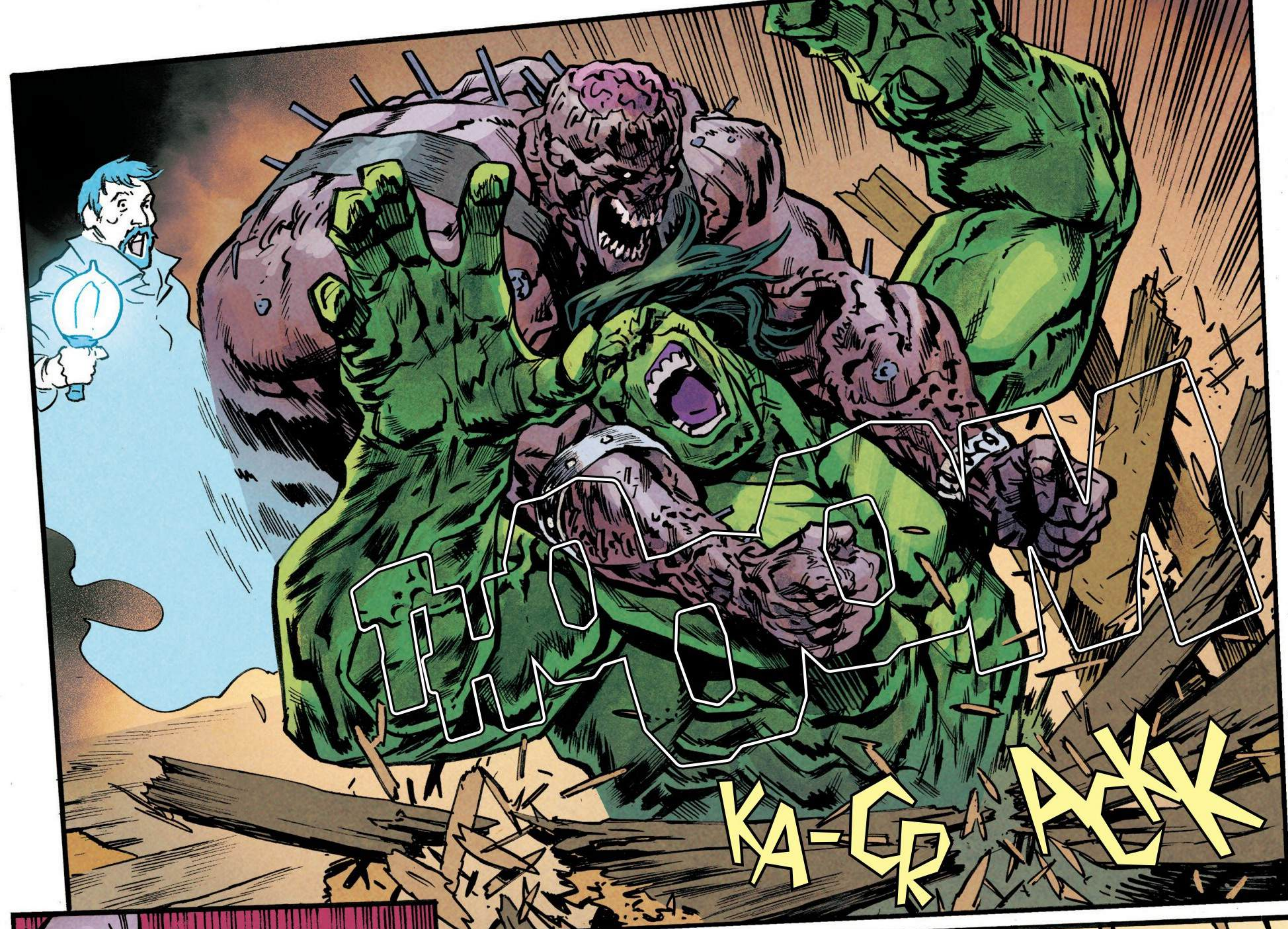
SOMETIMES CALLED...G-GRAVE WAX.

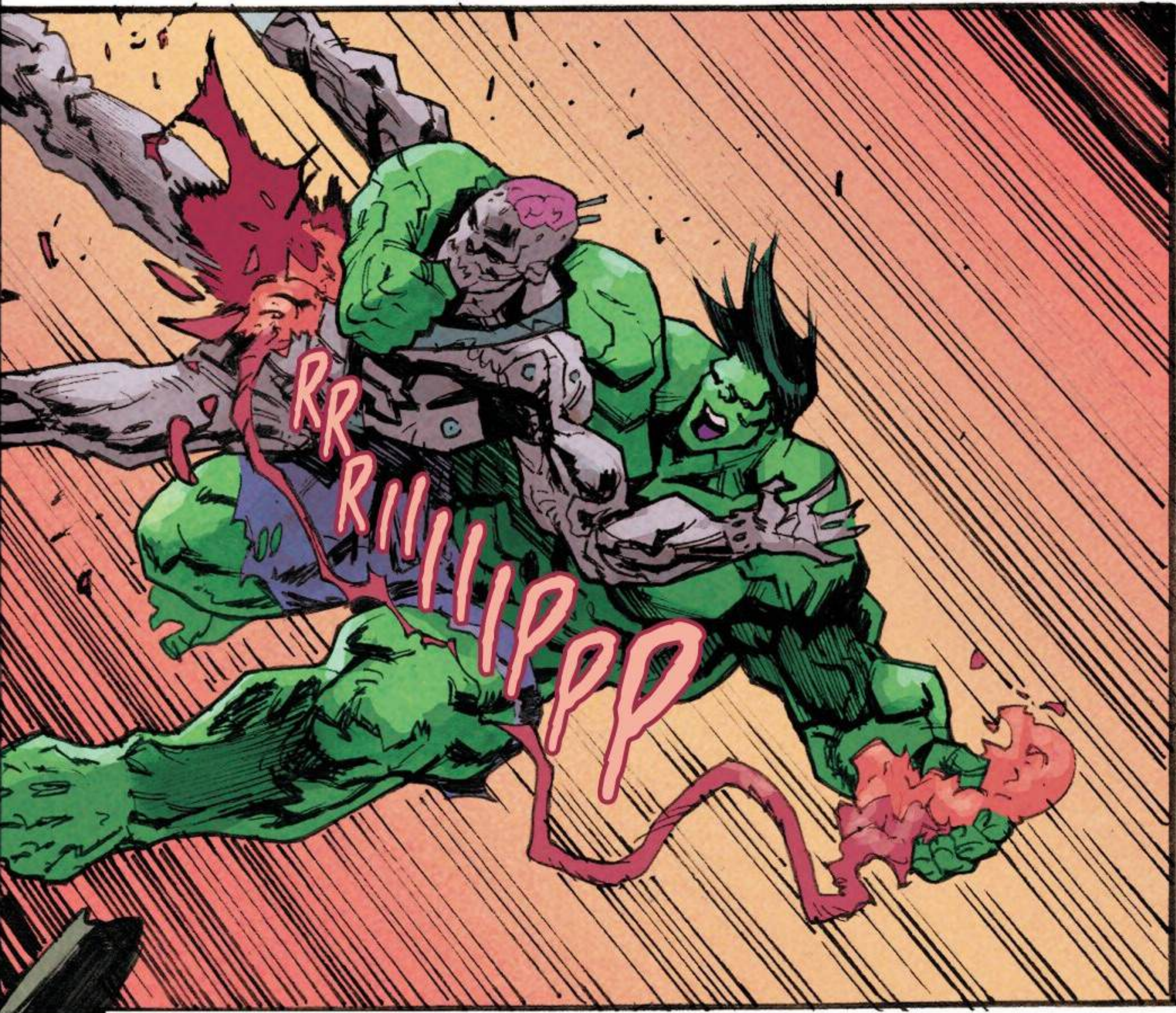
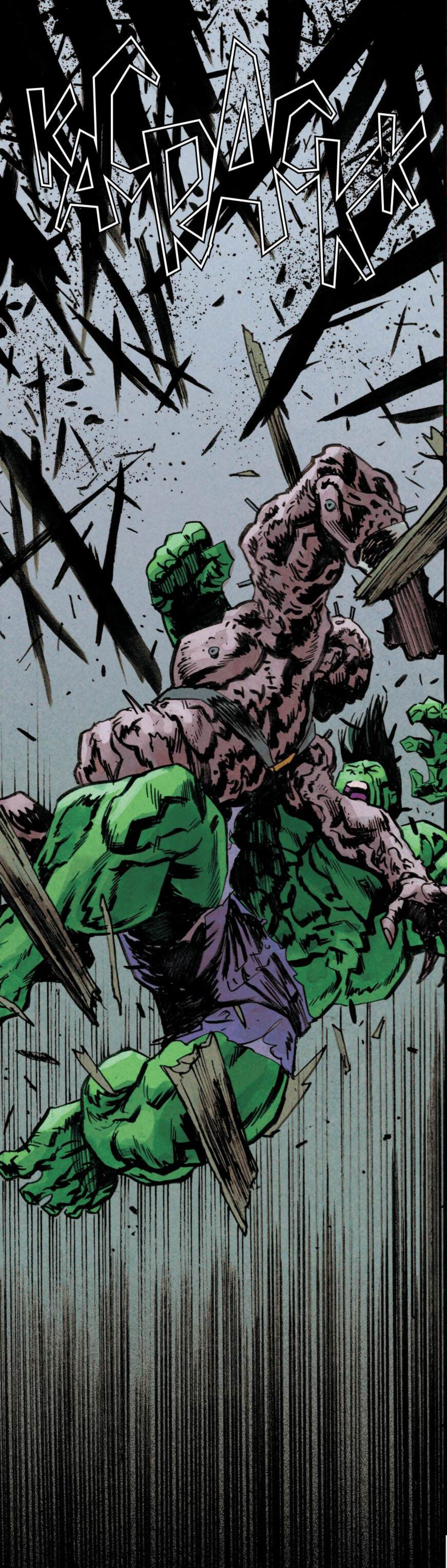
BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT SUGGEST RENDERED FAT FROM CORPSE TISSUE CAN BECOME...QUITE RIGID. DURABLE.

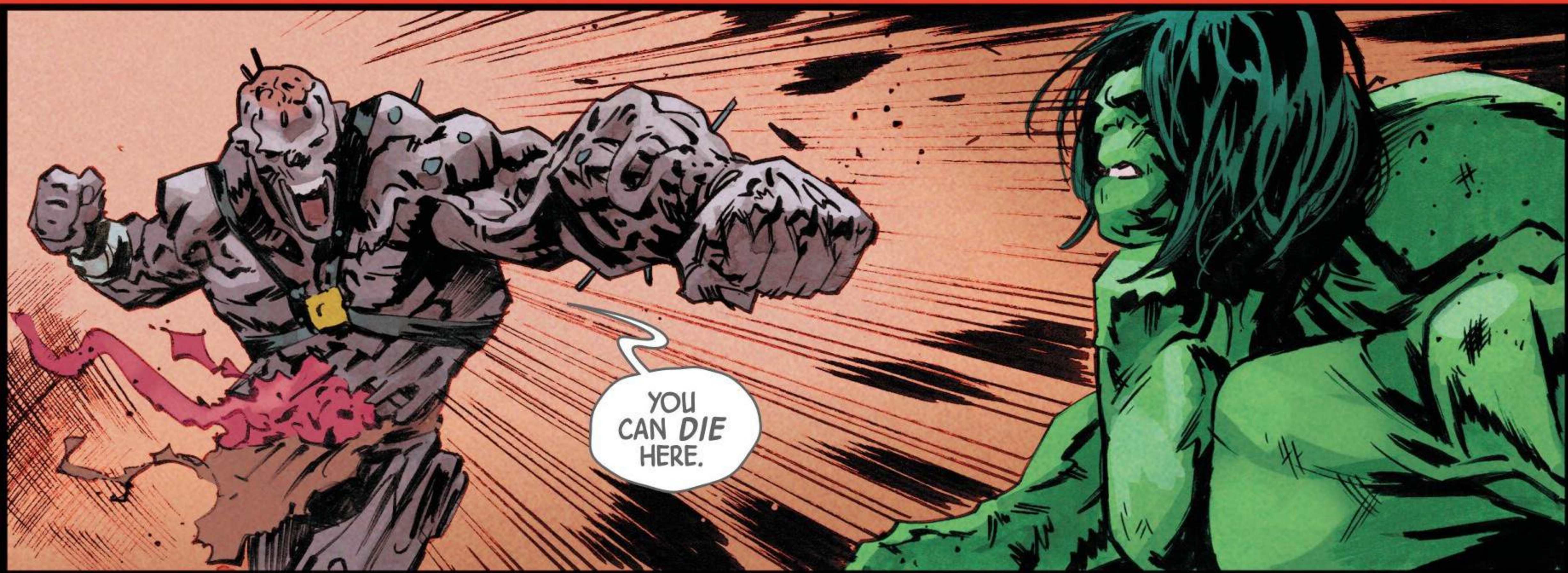


CREEEEAAAK

THOUGH... NEVER HEARD OF ITS USE IN...SUCH FASHION AS THIS.



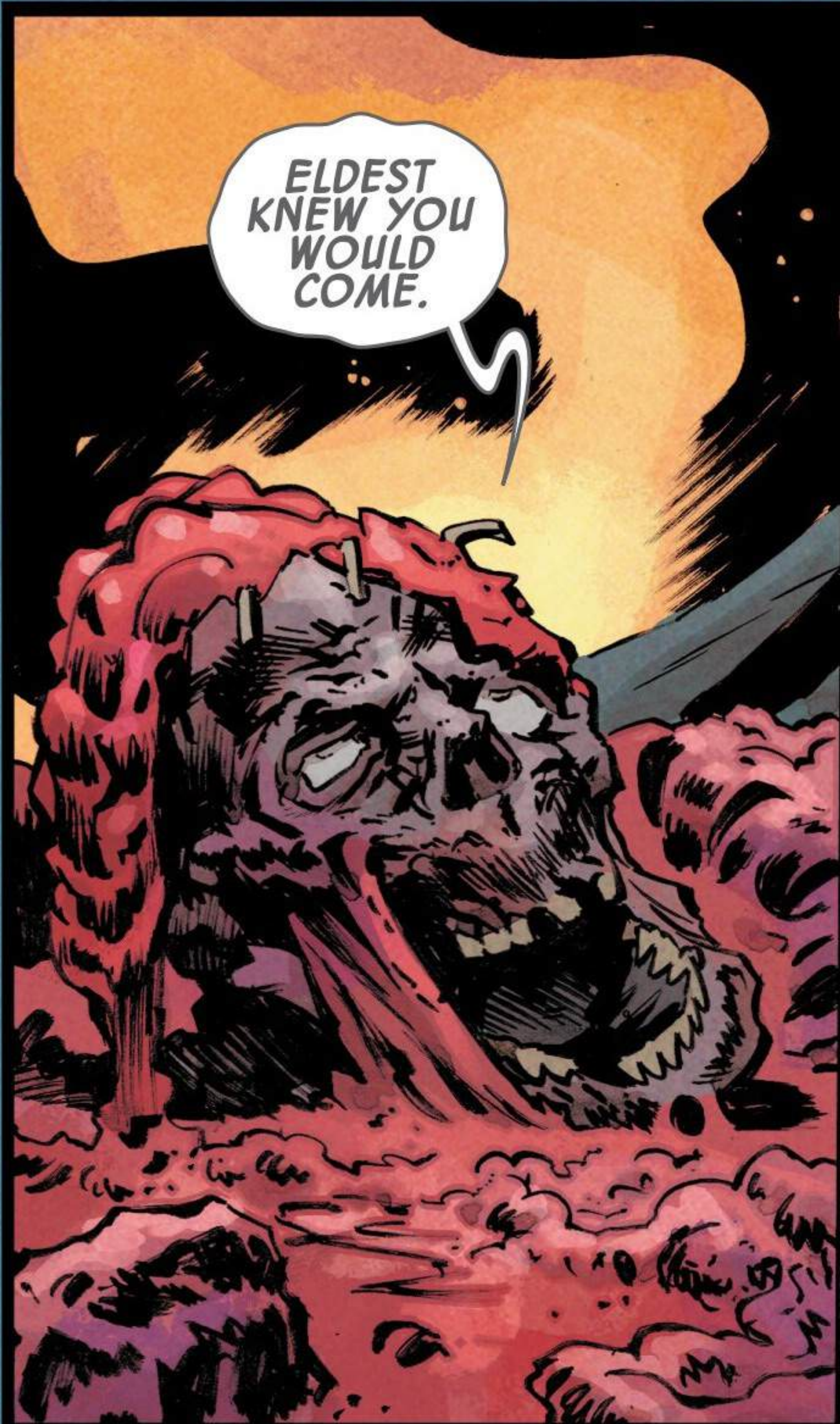






BY THE
A-AUTHORITY OF...
THE P-PINKERTON
DETECTIVE
AGENCY...

...YOU
ARE UNDER
ARREST.



ELDEST
KNEW YOU
WOULD
COME.



WHEN LAST
YOU CAME HERE,
YOU SOUGHT THE AID
OF DOCTOR
VOODOO.



YOU WILL
FIND NO SUCH
FAVOR THIS
TIME...



...FOR YOU
FACE THE **GREATER**
OF THE BROTHERS
DRUMM TONIGHT.

...B-BROTHER?

I SEE.

M-MISTER DRUMM...WE ARE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE PINKERTON DETECTIVE AGENCY.
INVESTIGATING TONIGHT'S...
D-DISTURBANCE.

IF YOU
HAVE ANY
INFORMATION...
REGARDING--

BE
STILL, LITTLE
GHOST.

FOOMP



KNOW THE
PEACE THAT HAS
ELUDED YOU.

FW
SH



YOU
%&#. HE CAME
TO HELP
YOU.

AS MY
BROTHER HELPED
YOU?

BOOOOM



DID YOU EVEN
WONDER WHY
ELDEST FAILED TO
POSSESS YOU IN
THE TEMPLE OF
LYCANA?*

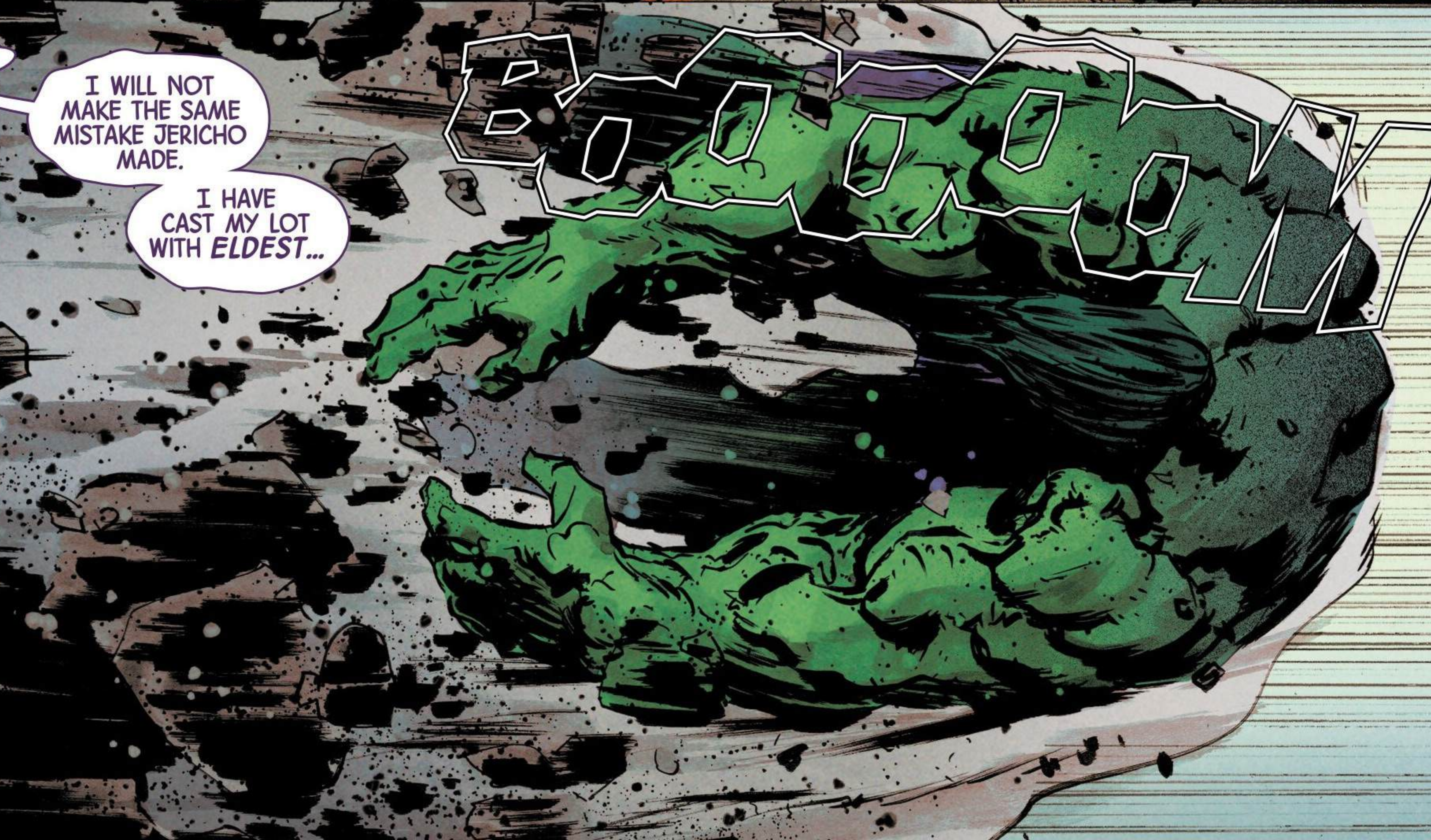
MY BROTHER
PLACED A
**PROTECTION
CHARM** UPON YOUR
HUMAN VESSEL.
BANNER.

*AS SEEN IN
INCREDIBLE HULK
#18! --JDW



ELDEST
LEARNED THIS,
AND CAME FOR
MY BROTHER.

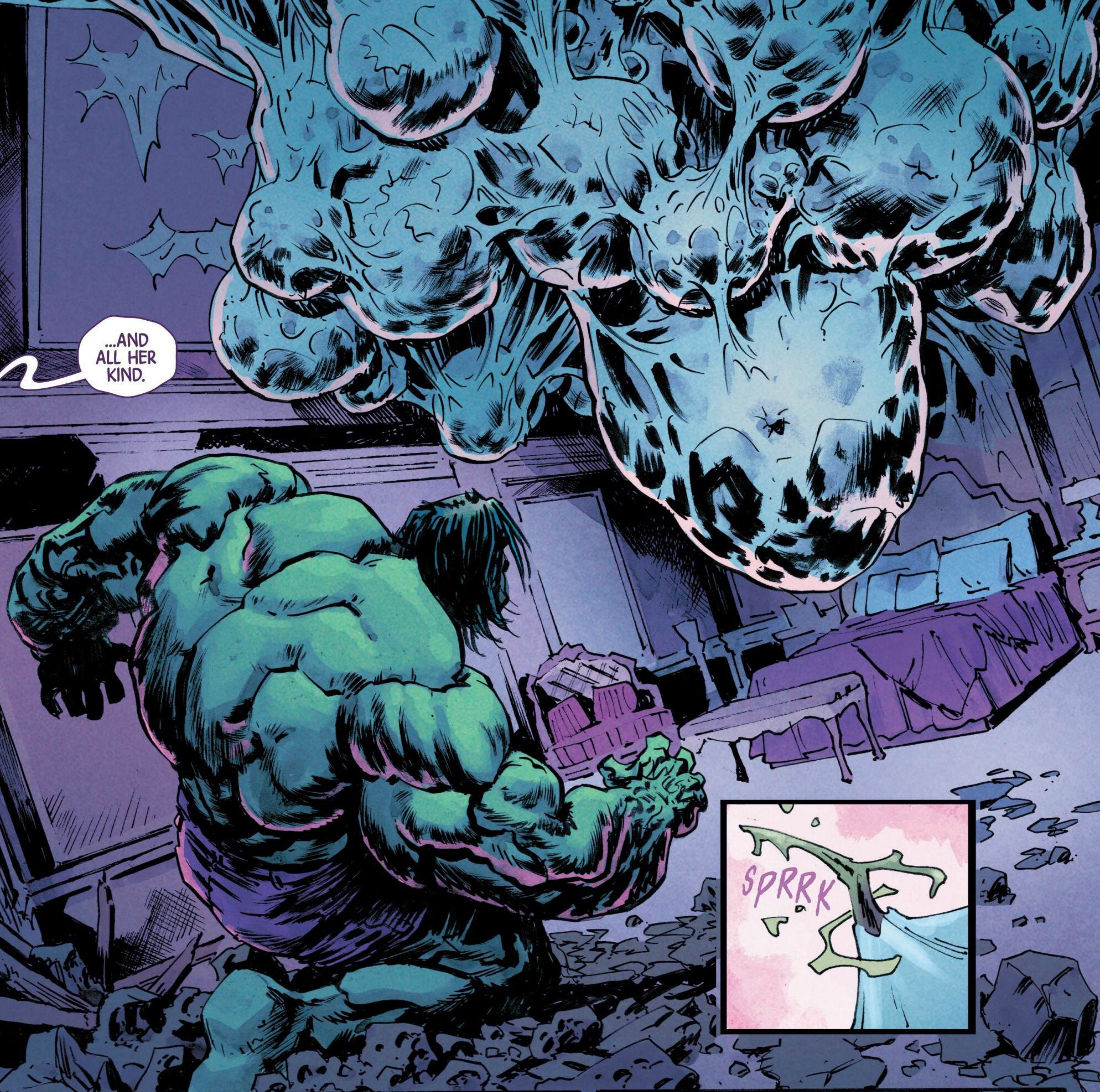
WHAAM



I WILL NOT
MAKE THE SAME
MISTAKE JERICHO
MADE.

I HAVE
CAST MY LOT
WITH **ELDEST**...

BOOOOM



...AND
ALL HER
KIND.



SPRRK



HEAR ME,
ELDEST. YOUR
PREY IS HERE.

SPLURK

SEND YOUR
FERRYMAN, DJIEIEN
OF THE MANY
EYES.



SP
LURRRP

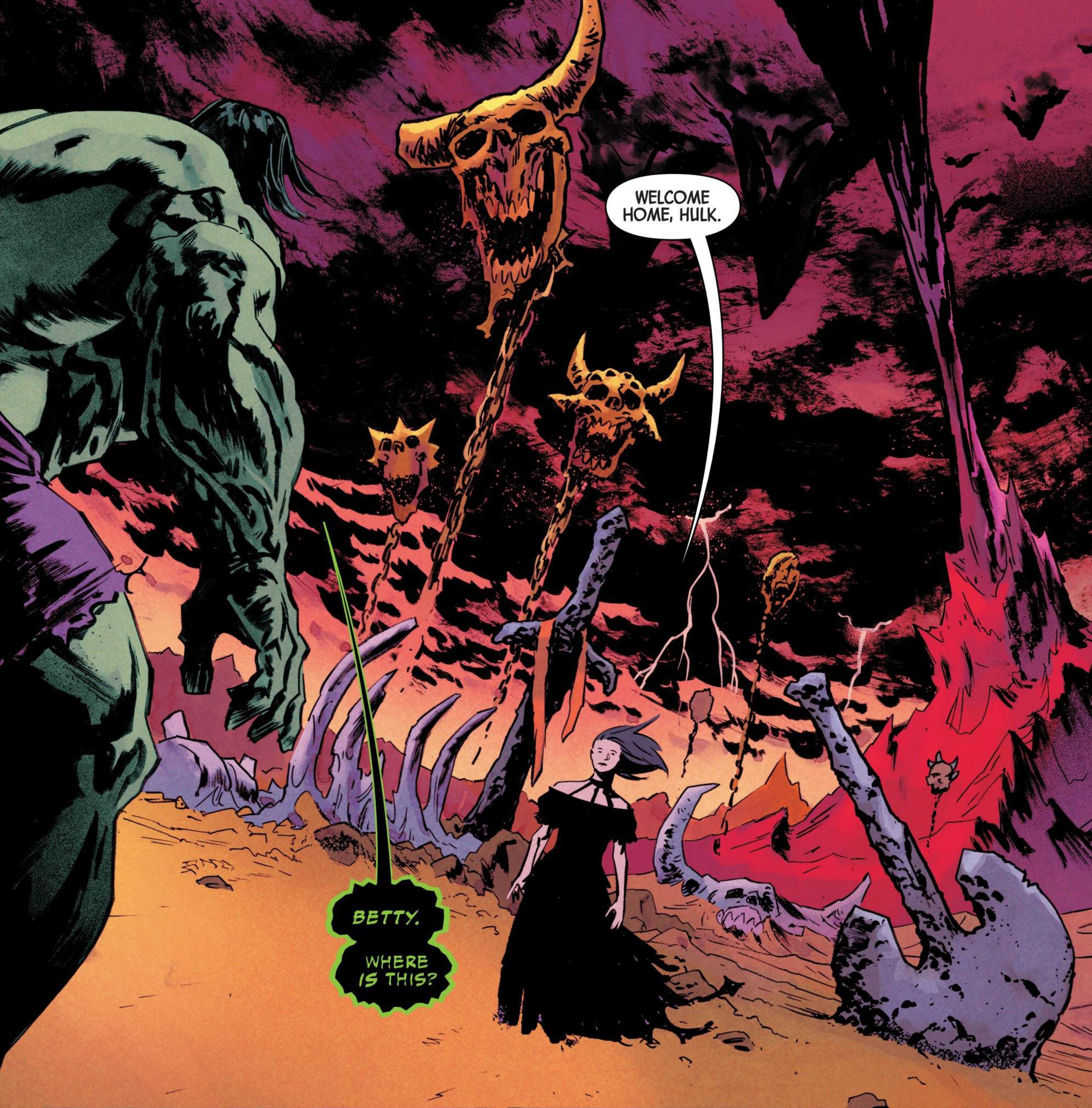
CLAIM THIS
LOATHSOME
CREATURE'S
FLESH...

...AND FREE
THE MOTHER OF
HORRORS.

GILLRISH

BOOM

?
YOU.



WELCOME HOME, HULK.

BETTY.
WHERE IS THIS?



IT'S WHERE WE COME FROM.

THE PLACE WHERE THE **ONE BELOW ALL** EMERGED... WHERE THE **MOTHER OF HORRORS** WAS BROKEN...

VVVVVMMMMMM



...WHERE GAMMA WAS BORN.

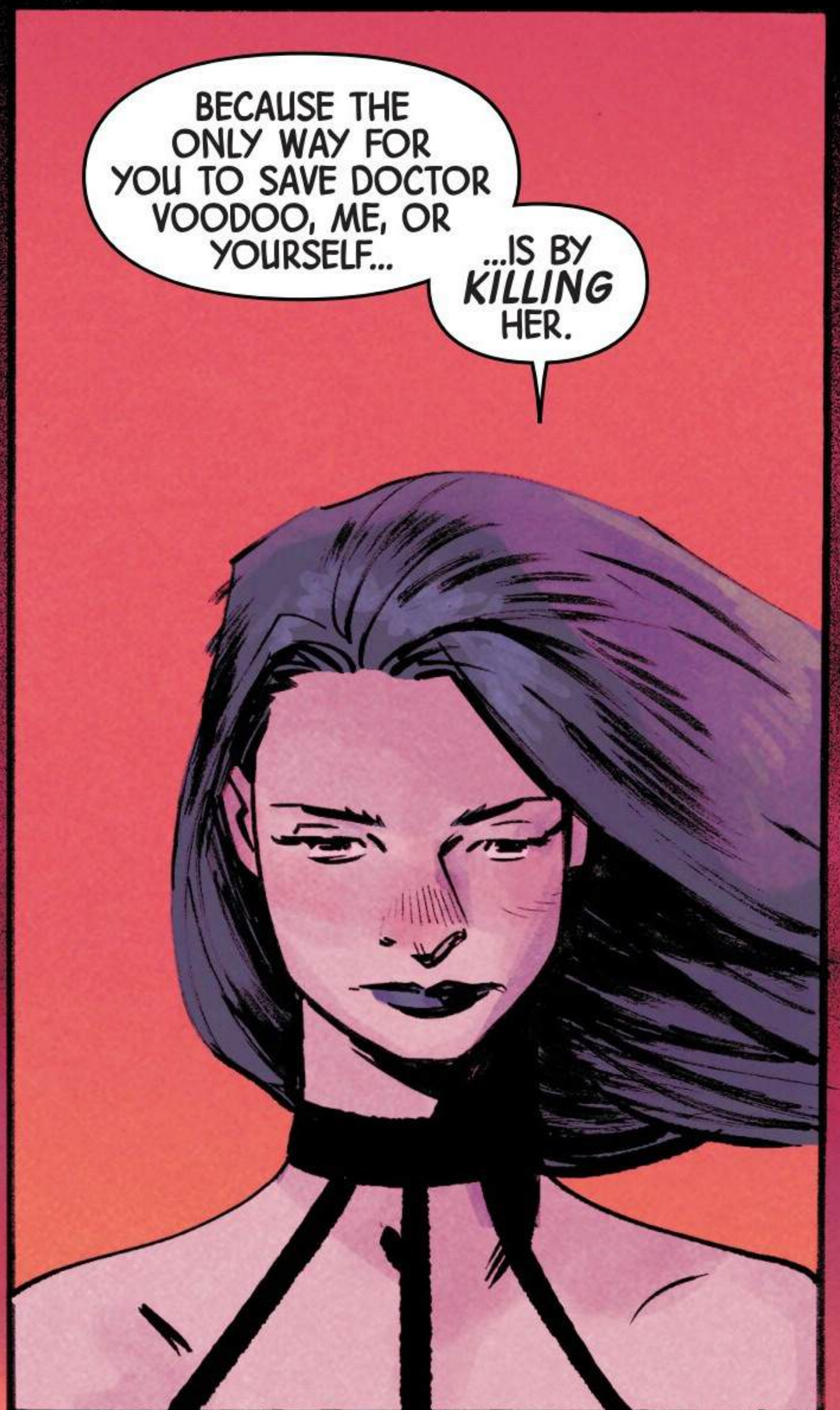
NNNG.



ELDEST IS BREAKING THE DEFENSES
DOCTOR VOODOO GAVE YOU.
YOU'LL HAVE TO SAVE HIM, FOR
YOUR OWN SAKE AS
MUCH AS--

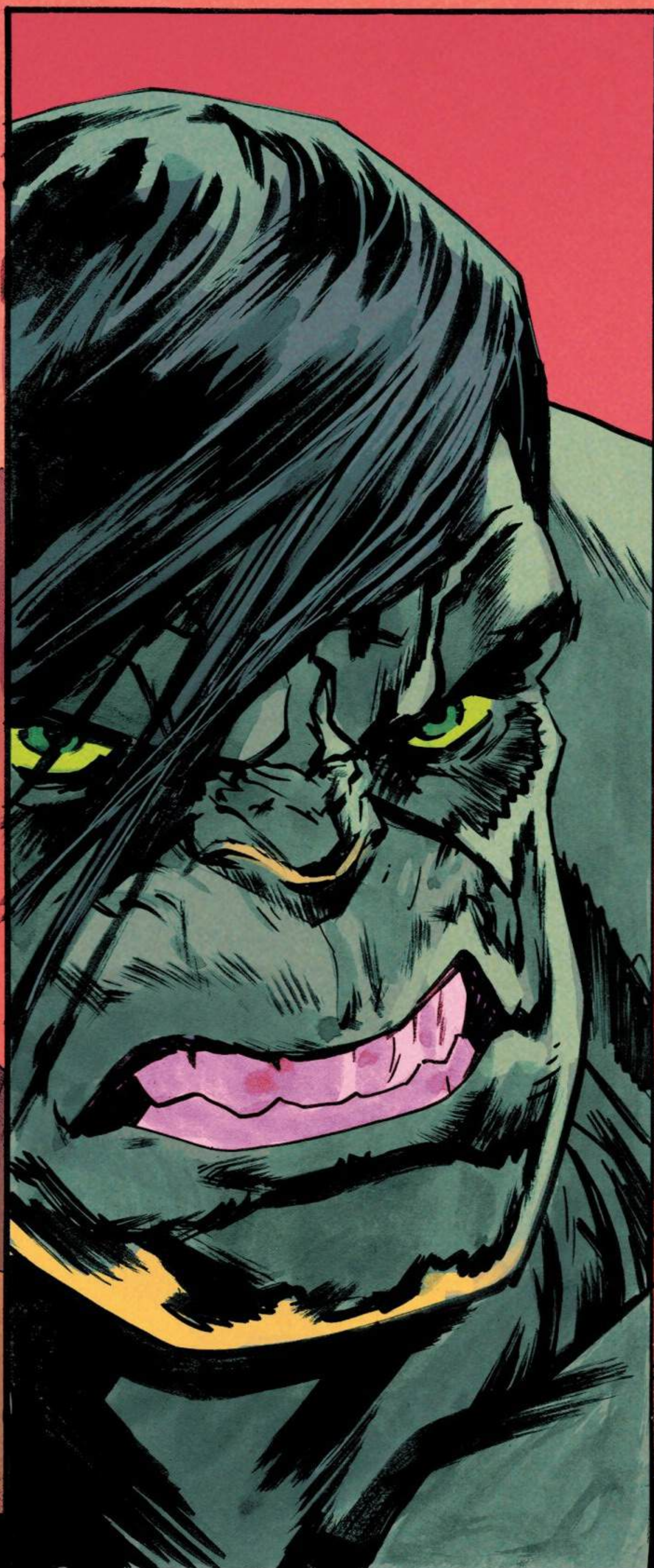
SHUT
UP.

ELDEST
PROBABLY SENT
YOU HERE. WHY
WOULD I TRUST
YOU?



BECAUSE THE
ONLY WAY FOR
YOU TO SAVE DOCTOR
VOODOO, ME, OR
YOURSELF...

...IS BY
KILLING
HER.



WHAT'S
THAT STUPID
NOISE?

I'LL SHOW
YOU.

FOLLOW
ME, HULK...



...AND
I'LL TELL YOU
EVERYTHING.

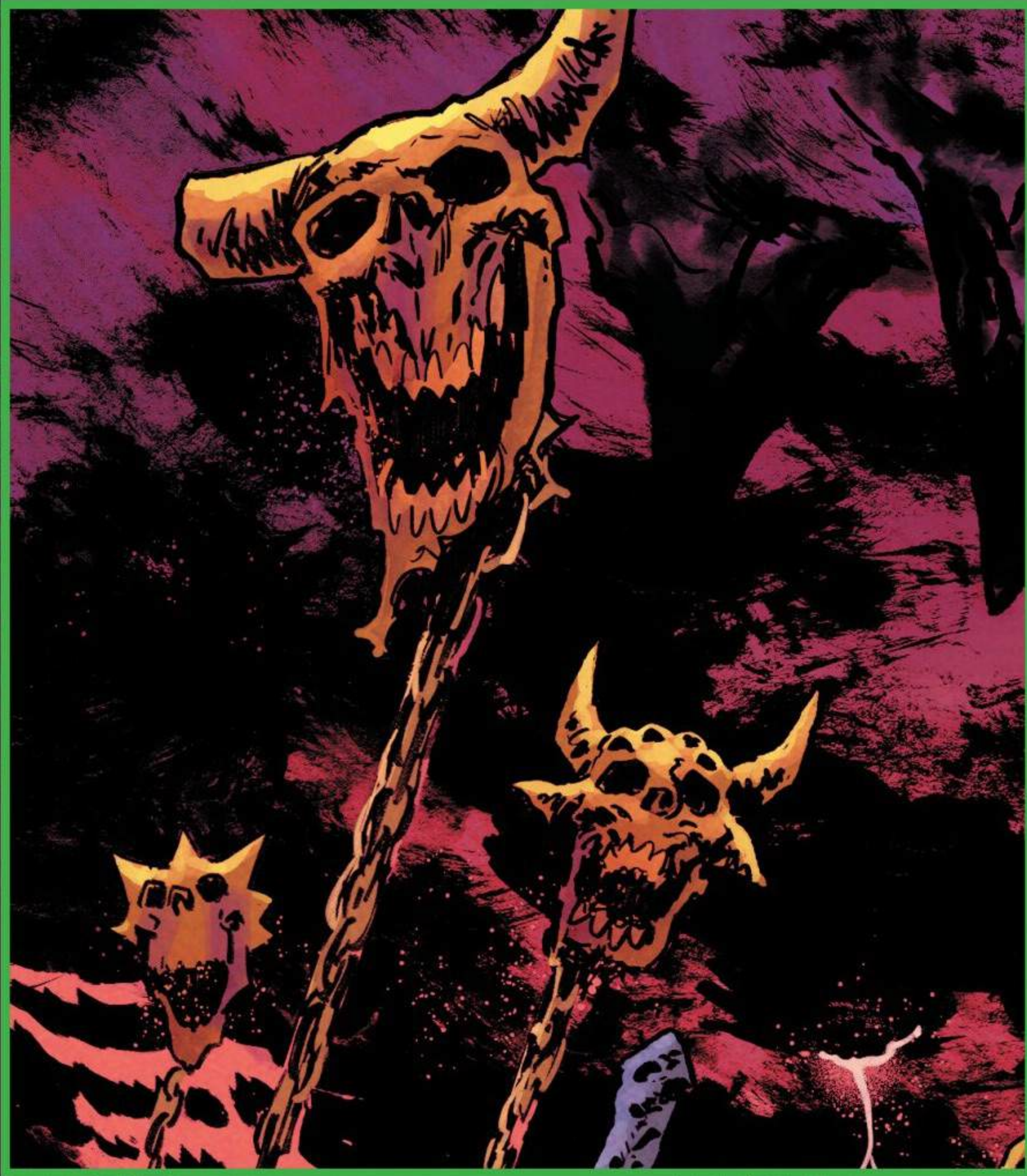
THE REMEMBRANCES OF ELDEST

THE MOTHER OF HORRORS, PART I

I have drawn the Fractured Son to the cavern of the Requiem Plain. His time draws near.

Strange to see him in this hallowed place, shuffling amidst the broken bones of my brothers and sisters who died here. Slaughtered by the one who made him.

But as the One Below All was created here, so will His son die here.



The One Above All created the Earth, and with it, the Demiurge Primordial: the force that seeded the Earth with life. From the Demiurge came the Elder Gods, and though their father-god spared Earth not a thought, the Demiurge and the Elder Gods shaped Earth according to His design...save for a lone drop of shadow that sprang into being not of the One Above All, but of itself. This living gloam took the name VINRUVIEL, which means "Unbidden."

As the Earth evolved, so evolved life upon it...some in ways that were not intended. As the Elder Gods slept, dark Vinruviel planted seeds of shadow within their flesh, and in time they became creatures of fearsome form and savage appetite. Good CHTHON was tormented with murderous, cannibalistic urges. Graceful SET became a twisted horror of fanged mouths and writhing, limbless flesh. Many of the first gods became the first demons, with no understanding of what had been done to them.

The devolution of Earth drew the eye of the One Above All, and His ire. Through His servant the Demiurge and the Elder God Gaea, He created

a God-Eater to cull the Earth of His children and begin anew. Vinruviel watched the One's cruel purge from her earthen womb...and was glad of it.

Aeons passed, and Vinruviel grew bolder. As new gods and demigods rose to replace the culled, she created life of her own, some more powerful than those born of the One Above All, some brighter than He himself. The One looked down from His exalted seat and, seeing again creations that were not His own, He descended upon the corruption with a RAGE He had never known, setting the Earth back upon His path through blood and flame. Still He could not find the cause of this corruption, and so Vinruviel grew stronger, cleverer, and ever bolder.

Time lingered on. New worlds were born and died, and the Earth strayed further and further from the natural order. Guided by the unseen hand of dark Vinruviel, it became ever more divergent and brutal, its children ever fiercer, until the One Above All would abide it no longer. From the light that was His own flesh, He crafted a flaming spear with the power of a thousand exploding suns and descended upon the Earth. With a single whispered word He rent the Earth asunder, laying bare its deepest caverns and darkest secrets. What He found rekindled His rage, and taught Him fear as well.

Beneath the surface, the planet had become as a living corpse, teeming with all manner of terrifying, blasphemous life. Corruption now wove through the very bones of the Earth, turning all the world to monsters, and they knew this celestial as their enemy. In chorus, they made a terrible shriek of loathing and of admonishment: **THIS PLACE IS OURS. YOU ABANDONED IT IN THE DARK, OUR MOTHER CLAIMED IT, AND NOW YOU HAVE NO PLACE HERE.**

The One Above All looked upon these abominations who had claimed dominion of the Earth, and saw something in the darkness below...something watching Him, driving these creatures against Him. With His burning spear He cast the monsters aside, and saw at last the force that defied Him since time began: a creature both aberrant and beautiful, angelic and loathsome. The corrupter VINRUVIEL, now the **MOTHER OF HORRORS**.

As the One Above All raised His spear to kill her, she lashed out and **PIERCED** His golden flesh, planting within Him a single seed of corruption...

...and from the wound erupted a flame of **EMERALD GREEN**.



INCREDIBLE HULK #29 VARIANT BY SKAN





WOULD YOU
LIKE TO KNOW
WHAT **HAPPENED**
HERE, HULK?



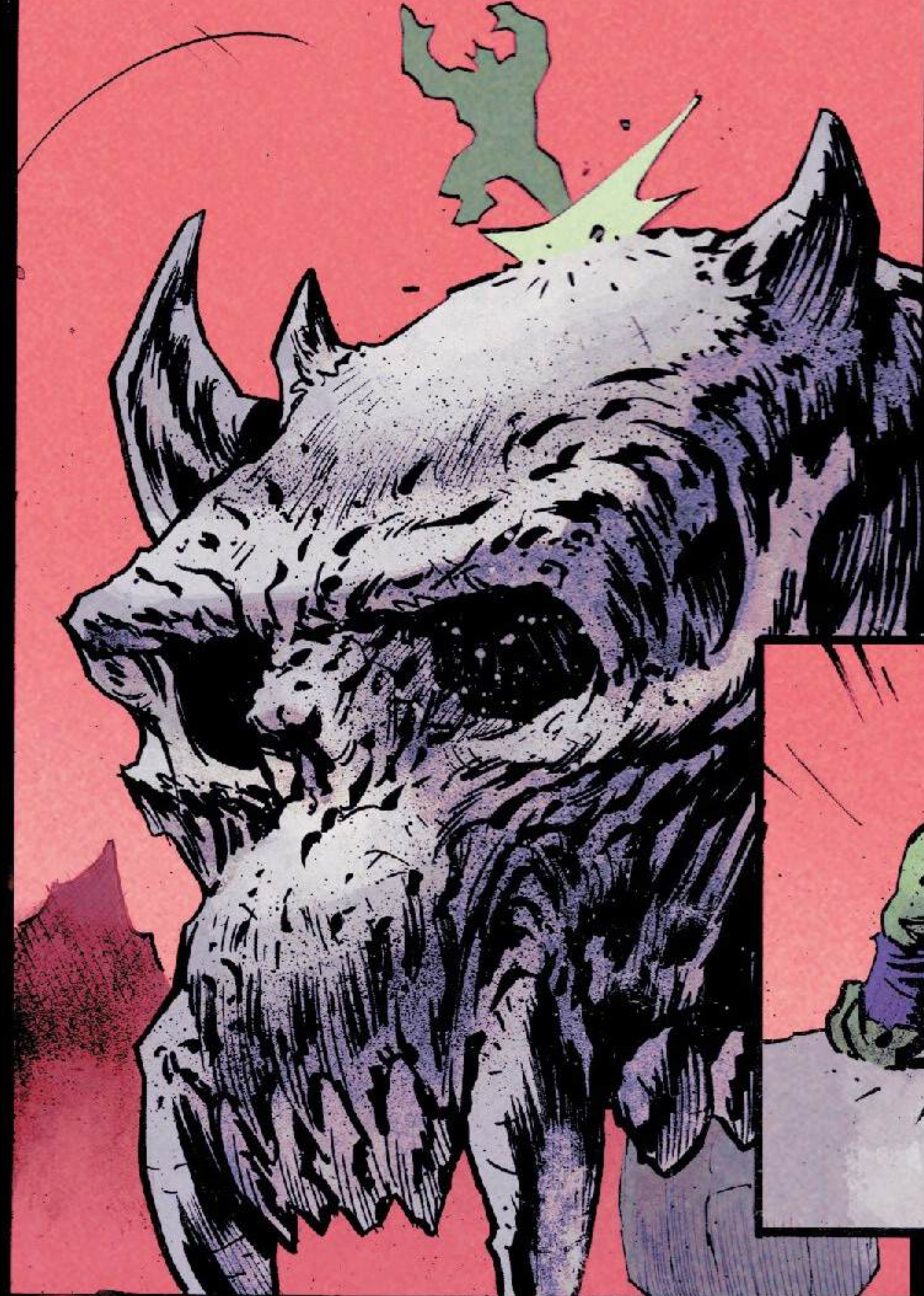
WE COULD
ASK **THEM**. THEY
HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN
A THING.

DEAD
THINGS DON'T
TALK, BETTY.



OH,
HULK.

YOU KNOW
BETTER THAN
THAT.





"WHAT DO THE DEAD
ONES TELL YOU, HULK?
WHAT DO YOU SEE?"

"I SEE...
EARTH."

"WHEN IT
WAS NEW.
QUIET."

"GODS.
NOTHING
ELSE."

"OCEAN.
DEEP.
PEACEFUL."

"EXCEPT..."

"...THERE'S
SOMETHING
DOWN THERE."



"IT'S CHANGING THINGS.

"EVERYTHING.

"PRETTY THINGS WENT DARK. QUIET THINGS GOT...

"...HUNGRY."

"WHAT ELSE DO YOU SEE?"

"...ANOTHER GOD. THE ONE WHO MADE EVERYTHING.

"HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT EARTH...

"...UNTIL THE MONSTERS CAME.



"HE MADE A
MONSTER TO KILL
ALL THE OTHERS."

"IT WAS OVER."

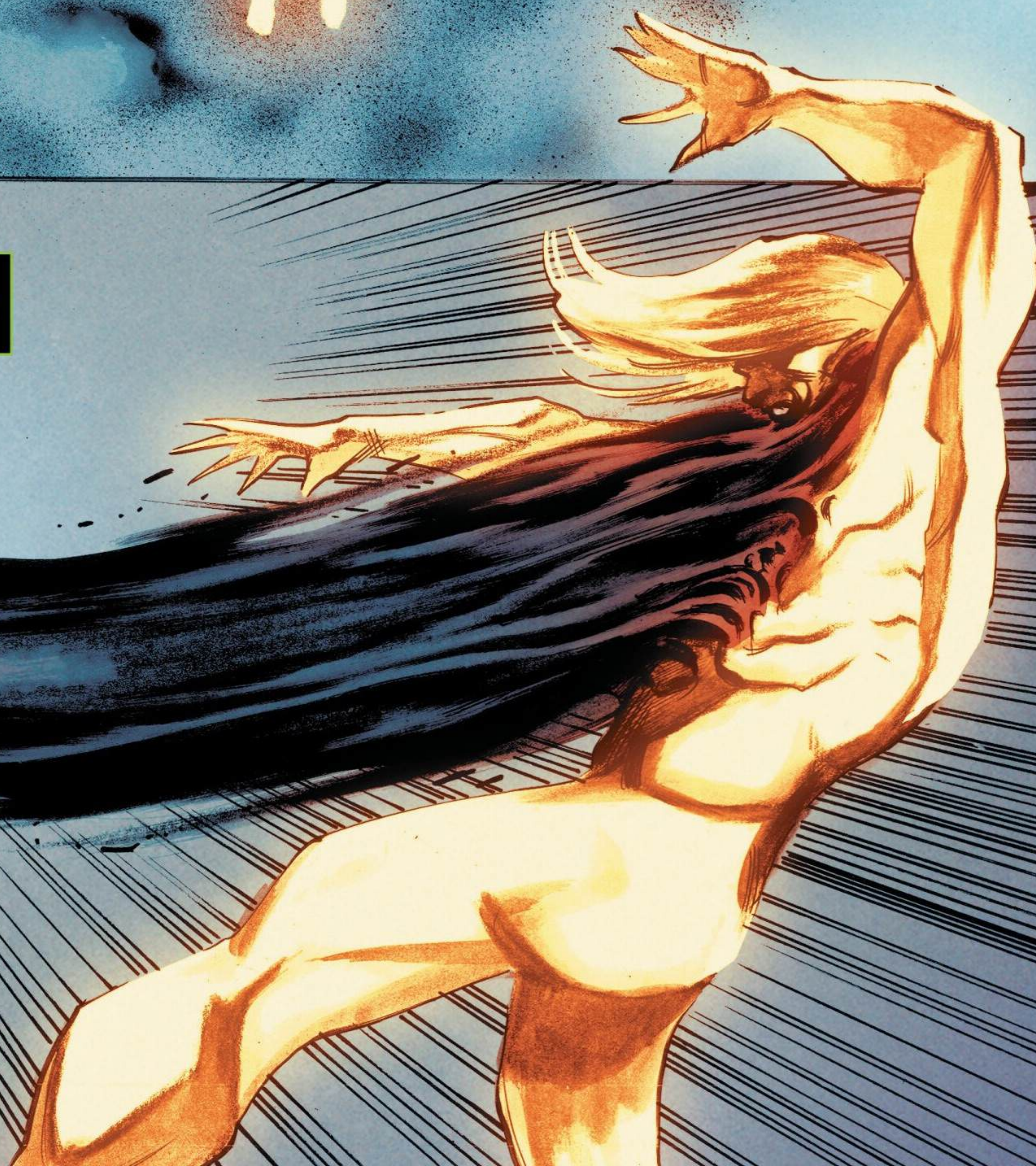


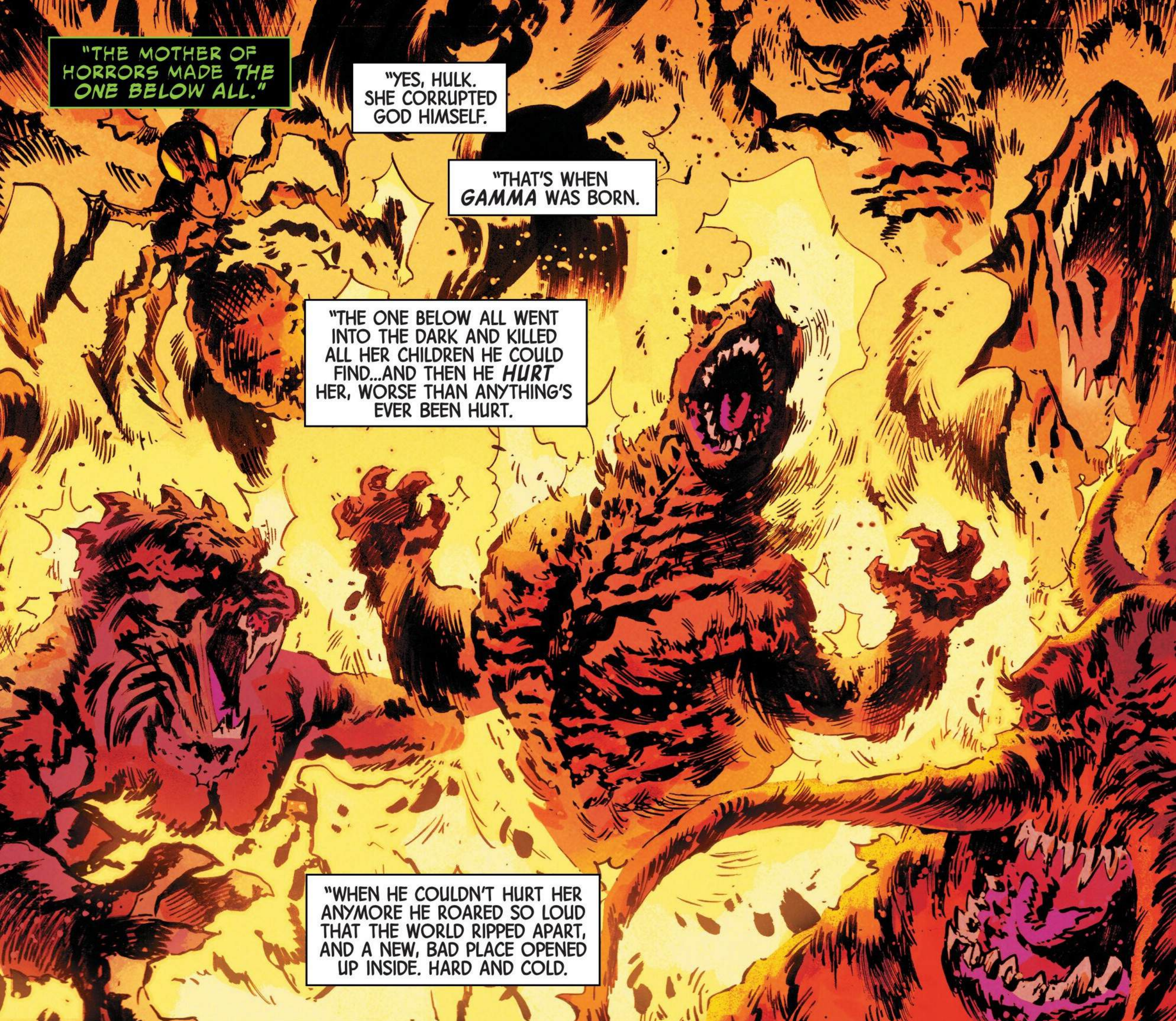
"BUT THE
THING IN
THE DARK
WAS STILL
THERE."

"GOD OPENED
THE GROUND AND
FOUND HER..."



"...AND SHE
PUT THE DARK
IN HIM, TOO."





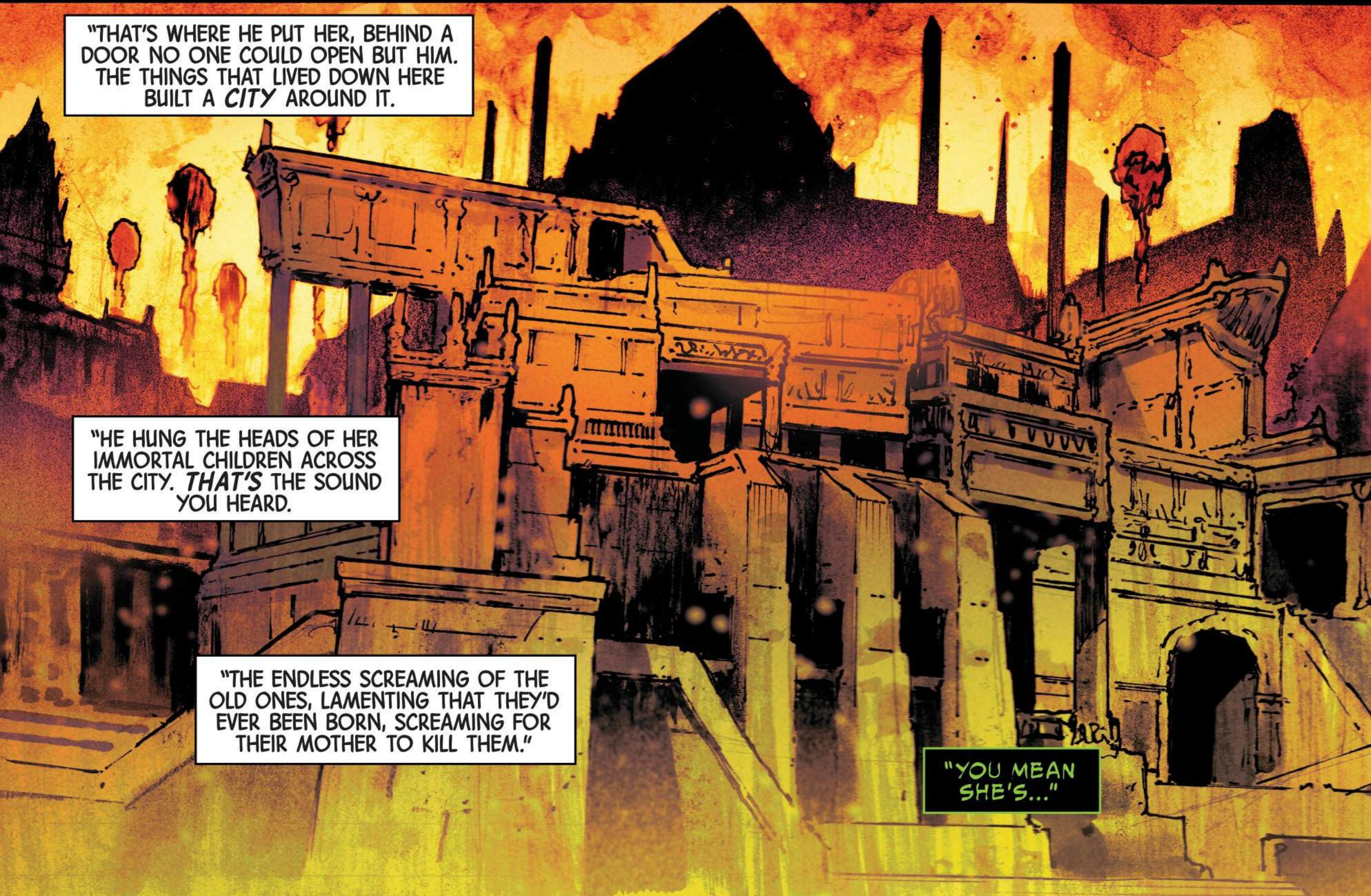
"THE MOTHER OF
HORRORS MADE THE
ONE BELOW ALL."

"YES, HULK.
SHE CORRUPTED
GOD HIMSELF.

"THAT'S WHEN
GAMMA WAS BORN.

"THE ONE BELOW ALL WENT
INTO THE DARK AND KILLED
ALL HER CHILDREN HE COULD
FIND...AND THEN HE **HURT**
HER, WORSE THAN ANYTHING'S
EVER BEEN HURT.

"WHEN HE COULDN'T HURT HER
ANYMORE HE ROARED SO LOUD
THAT THE WORLD RIPPED APART,
AND A NEW, BAD PLACE OPENED
UP INSIDE. HARD AND COLD.



"THAT'S WHERE HE PUT HER, BEHIND A
DOOR NO ONE COULD OPEN BUT HIM.
THE THINGS THAT LIVED DOWN HERE
BUILT A **CITY** AROUND IT.

"HE HUNG THE HEADS OF HER
IMMORTAL CHILDREN ACROSS
THE CITY. **THAT'S** THE SOUND
YOU HEARD.

"THE ENDLESS SCREAMING OF THE
OLD ONES, LAMENTING THAT THEY'D
EVER BEEN BORN, SCREAMING FOR
THEIR MOTHER TO KILL THEM."

"YOU MEAN
SHE'S..."



...SHE'S STILL ALIVE IN THERE.

YES, HULK.



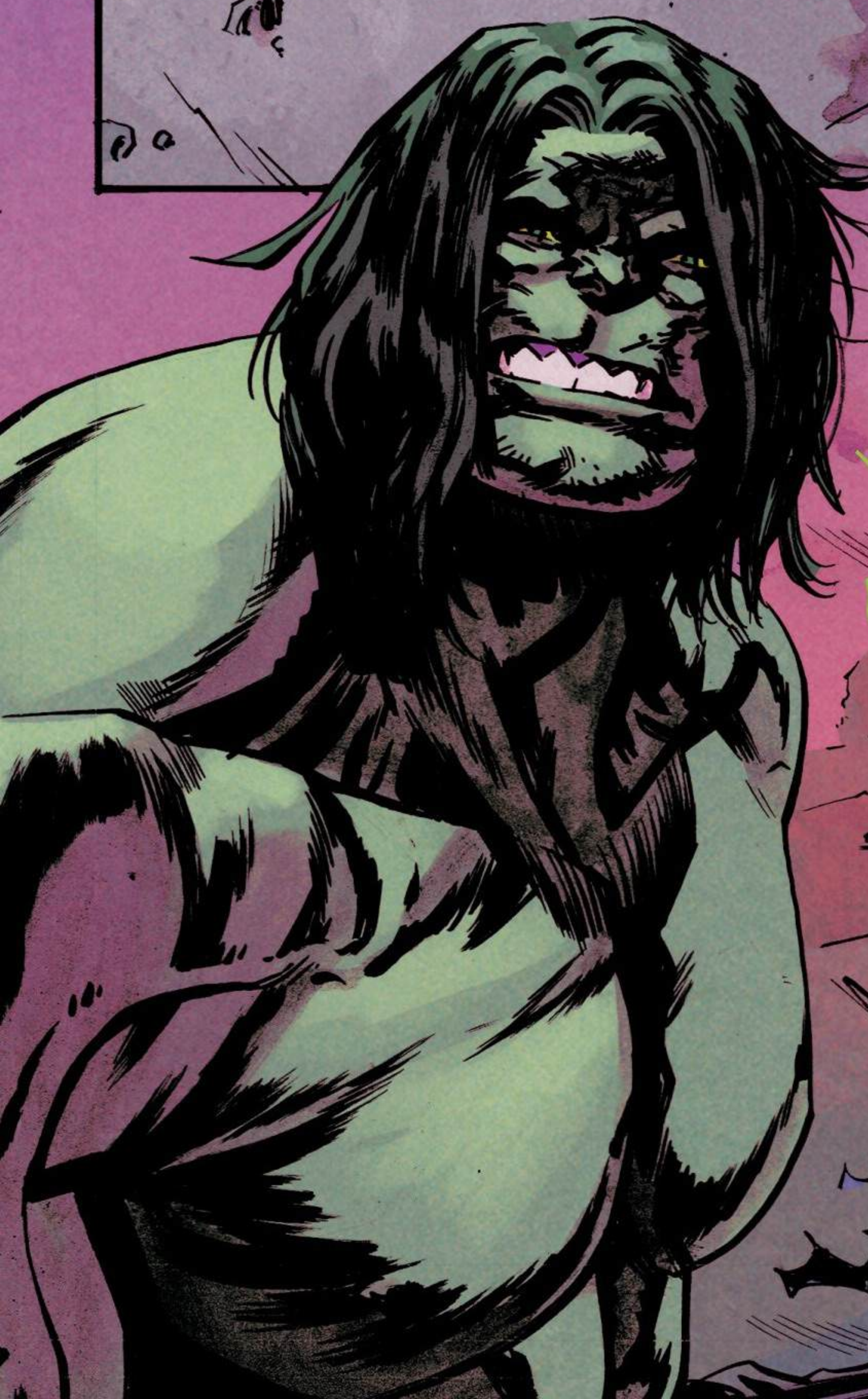
THAT'S WHY ELDEST BROUGHT YOU HERE.

ONLY THE ONE BELOW ALL CAN OPEN MOTHER'S PRISON...



...AND YOU CARRY THE GREEN FIRE NOW.

NOT OPENING ANYTHING.



KRAFF

HRRN?

HULK?

KRAFF
KRAFF

?



VOODOO?

IT IS YOU.

WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?



LOOKING FOR YOU.

WHY?

HOW MANY TIMES →COUGH← DID YOU TELL THE GIRL...YOU ARE NO HERO?

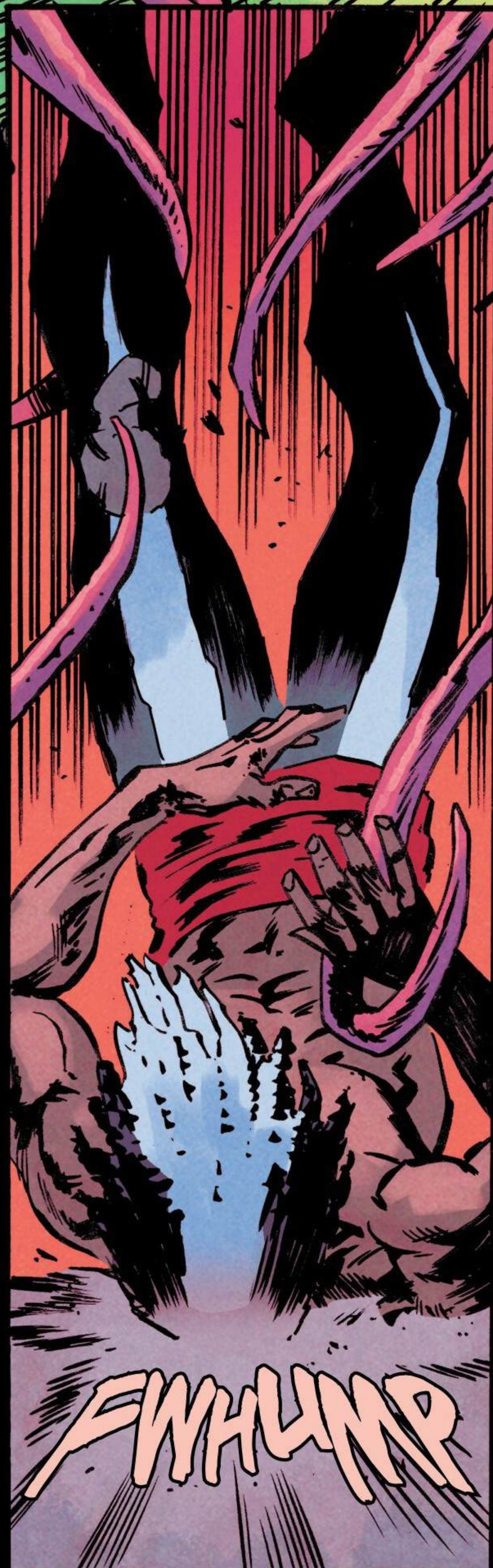


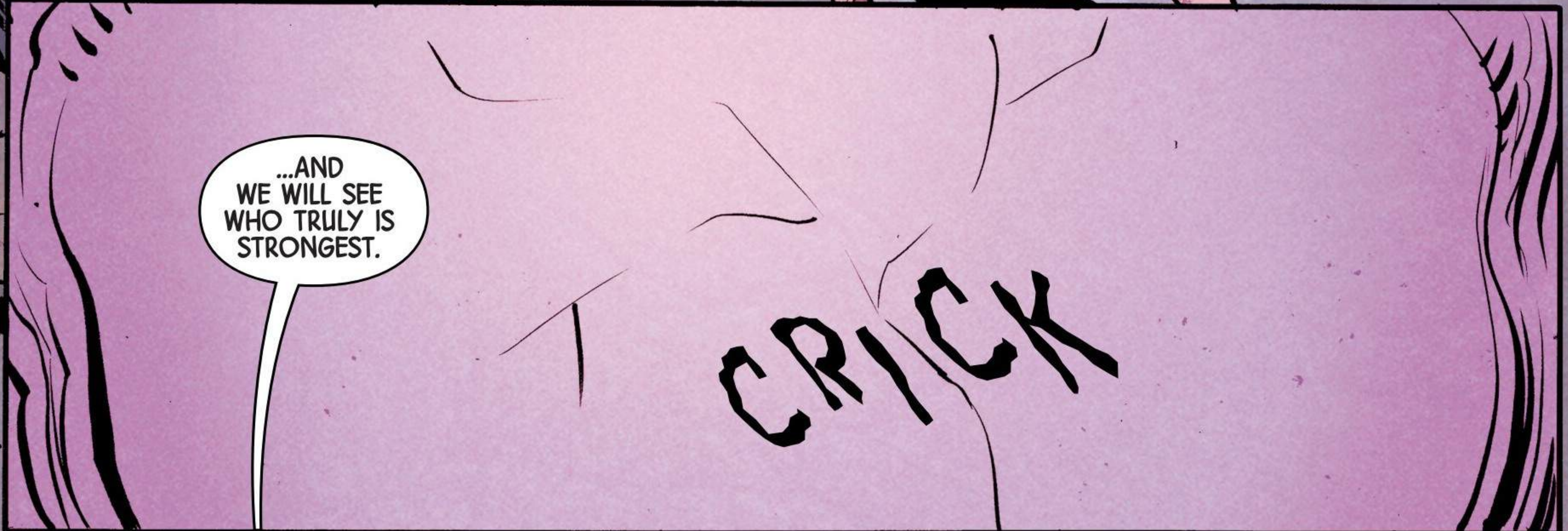
YEAH. WELL.

I DO WHAT I WANT.



GRRRRRRR...





...BETTY?

THAT...
LOOKS LIKE
YOU ON THAT
THING.

YOU SAID
IT YOURSELF,
HULK.

YOU FELT
ELDEST'S
HAND IN THIS,
YES?

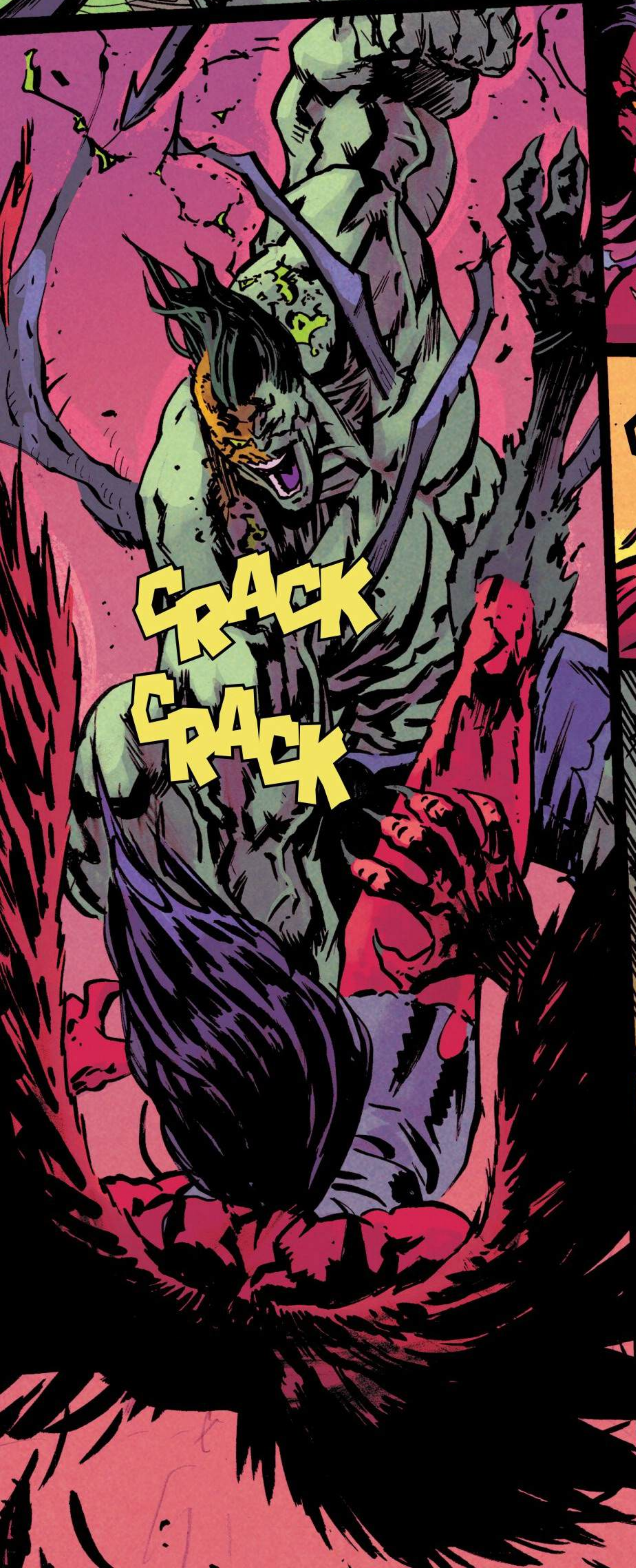
SHISSSSSSSE

HERE
I AM.

SHRRRCKK

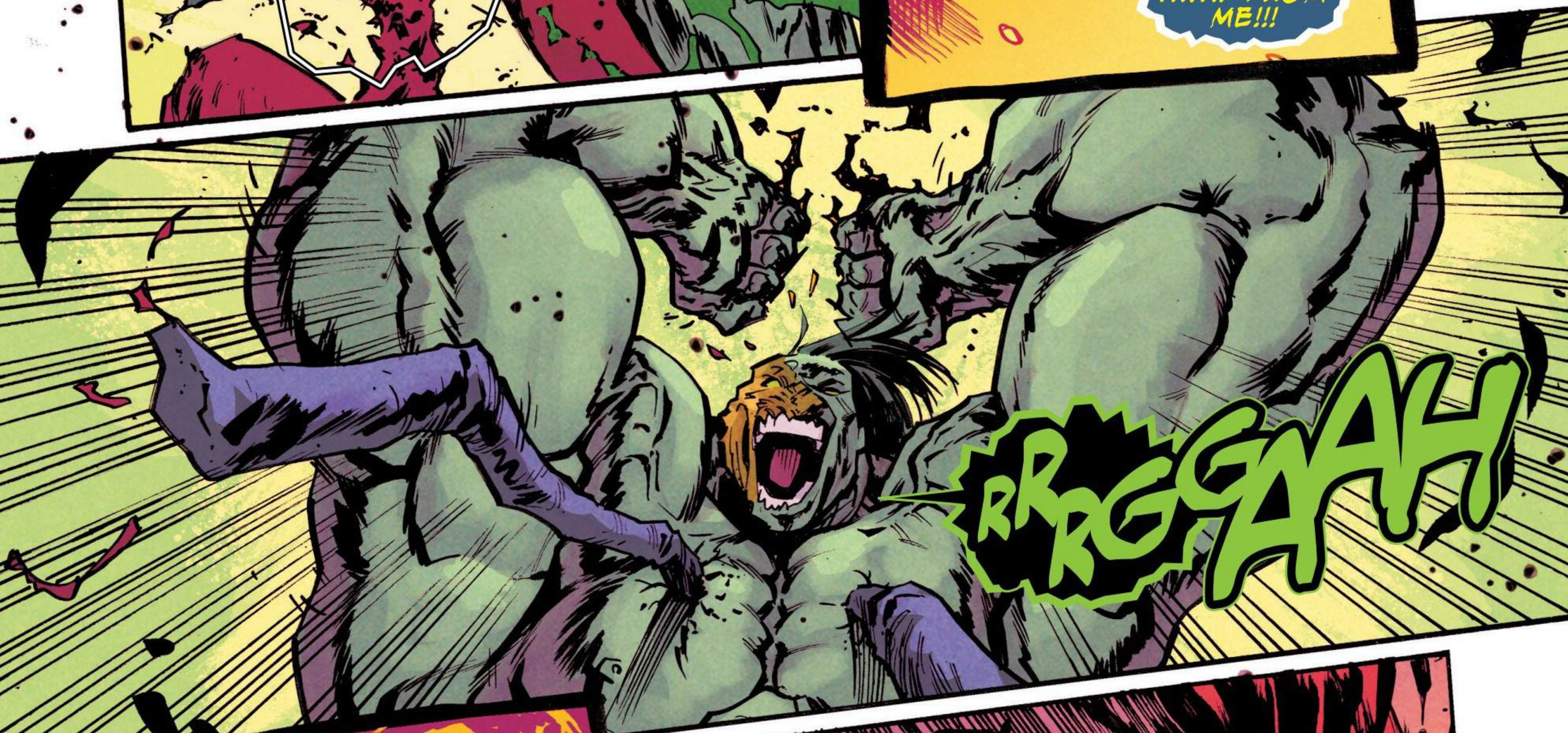








GET
AWAY FROM
ME!!!

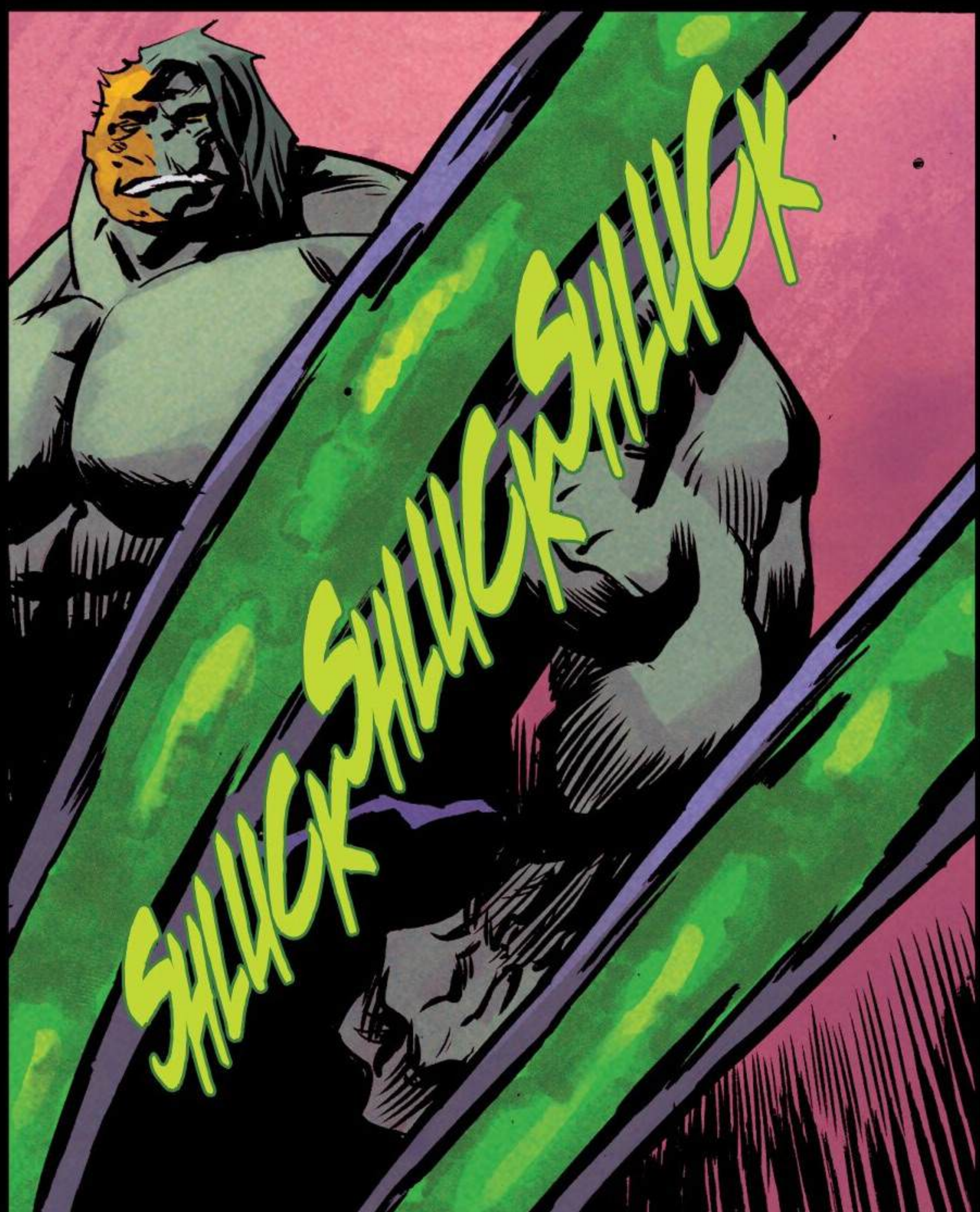


RRGGAAH!



WE'RE
JUST LIKE
THEM!!!







FACE YOUR
DEATH AT LAST,
FRACTURED
SON...

...AND USHER
IN THE AGE OF
MONSTERS.



THE REMEMBRANCES OF ELDEST

THE MOTHER OF HORRORS, PART II

I have said why the One Above All hates Mother Vinruviel above all others. Not only her audacity to exist without His leave, nor that she corrupted His children, nor that she changed the natural order of the Earth. It was the knowledge that even He, the Author of Creation, was not so almighty that He could not be corrupted.



As the One Above All lifted His spear to kill her, the Mother of Horrors pierced His flesh with a seed of corruption, and from the wound spilled a green flame. It grew until the fire enveloped Him, but His flesh was not consumed. Rather He was made stronger, but more terrible also, driven mad with an insatiable rage.

The flame transformed the god's shape and essence, burning away His golden body and leaving in His place a living storm of wrath and fury. He became the ONE BELOW ALL, a monster as surely as Vinruviel and her children. But a god He remained, and He had not forgotten Mother's trespasses against Him.

The green god of rage faced the legions of Mother's monstrous children, and He fell upon them, murdering all he found. Gods, demons, elementals, titans, all things majestic and terrible, all died at the hand of the One Below All on the Requiem Plain, and when the last of them lay still, He turned to Mother Vinruviel.

The One Below All raised His head and roared such a roar that the fabric of Creation ripped apart, creating a howling, frozen void of space and time. Into the void He dragged Vinruviel, and there He visited greater suffering upon her than any living thing has known. He broke her until no part of her was left whole, no tear nor drop of blood remained to be shed. But though she was so grievously wounded, the Mother of Horrors would not die. She was corruption itself, and such a thing is without end.

"No more," Mother said to the One Below All. "I am beaten and broken and wish only for death. I beg you consume my flesh, for in no other way may I be destroyed." So eager was the One Below All to kill her, He might have done as she bid. But His other self had written the laws of the universe, and He knew that to consume Vinruviel would be to give her purchase within His own flesh. In so powerful a form as the One Below All, the Mother of Horrors would have the power to corrupt not just the Earth, but all Creation.

The One Below All reached into the very firmament of the universe, and from it crafted a mighty chain that could never be broken, and a door so heavy it could never be opened. With the unbreakable chain He staked and bound the Mother of Horrors, and with the impassable door He sealed her within the frozen void he had created.

The One Below All left the corpses of Mother's children where they fell upon the Requiem Plain, as a warning to any who come seeking to free their mother. He struck off their heads with their tormented voices still inside them and hung them on iron chains all around the impassable door. So it is that Mother must hear her children's screams for all eternity, lamenting their mother's crimes, lamenting that they were ever born.

His terrible work complete, the flame of the One Below All receded, and the golden form of the One Above All returned. He thought the One Below All would remain hidden, and that no one would know of the secret, shameful corruption within Him.

But the green flame that Mother kindled in Him still burns. The mortals of Earth call the flame "gamma": the profane blood that spills when the rage of the One Above All cannot be contained. It is the proof that even God Himself can be corrupted.

And when I have claimed it, our mother will at last be free.





WHY--

BOOM

--MMMP--
MUST IT BE
YOU?



ALL THESE
OTHERS FAILED.
EVEN THIS
"ABOMINATION"
WHOSE FLESH
I WEAR.

NONE
MAY OPEN
MOTHER'S
PRISON BUT
YOU.



WHY
YOU?







YOUR
FLESH IS
MINE!!!

KAKINK



ALL
FLESH...



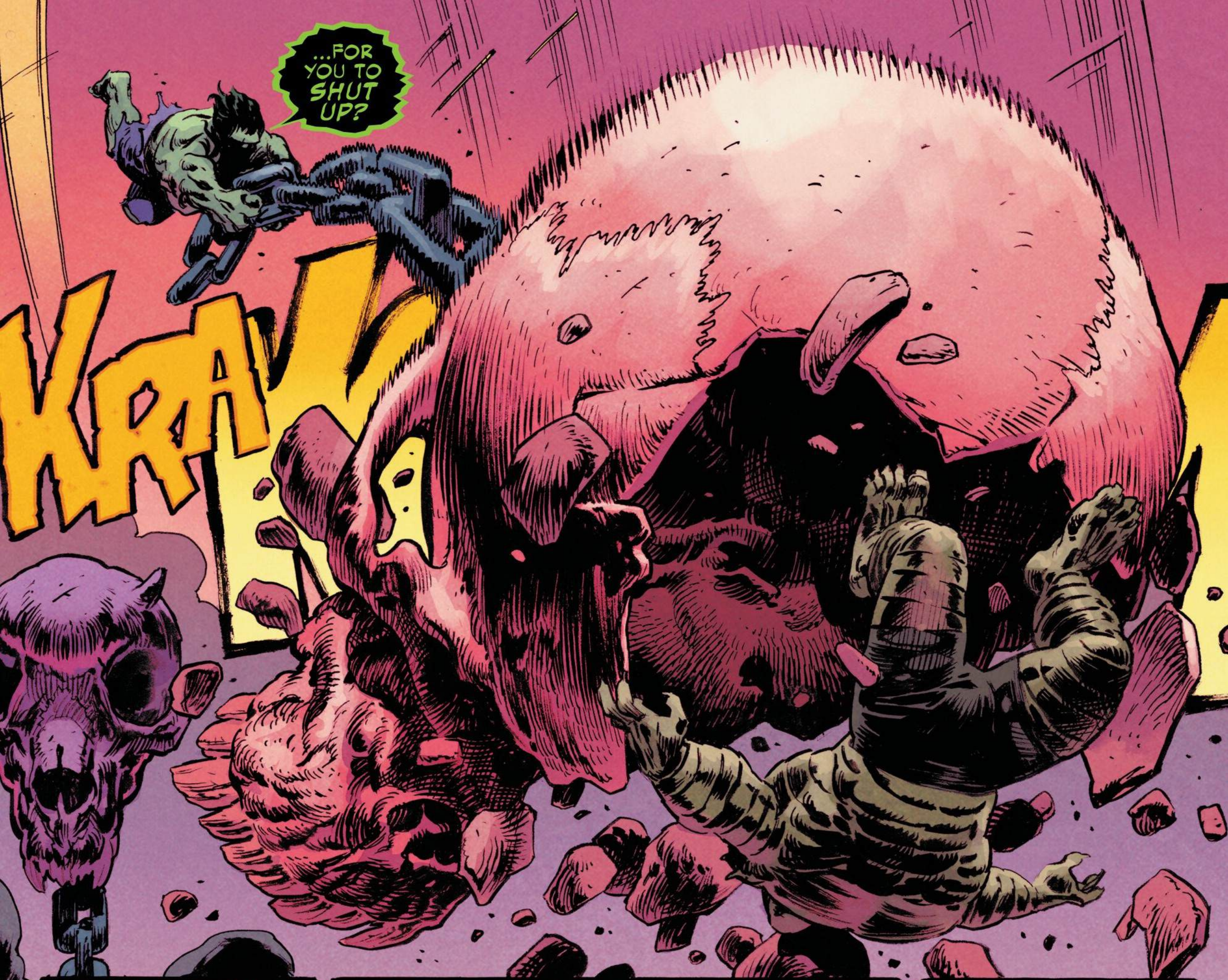
...IS
MINE!!!

KAKINK



GIVE
IT TO
ME!!!





...FOR
YOU TO
SHUT
UP?



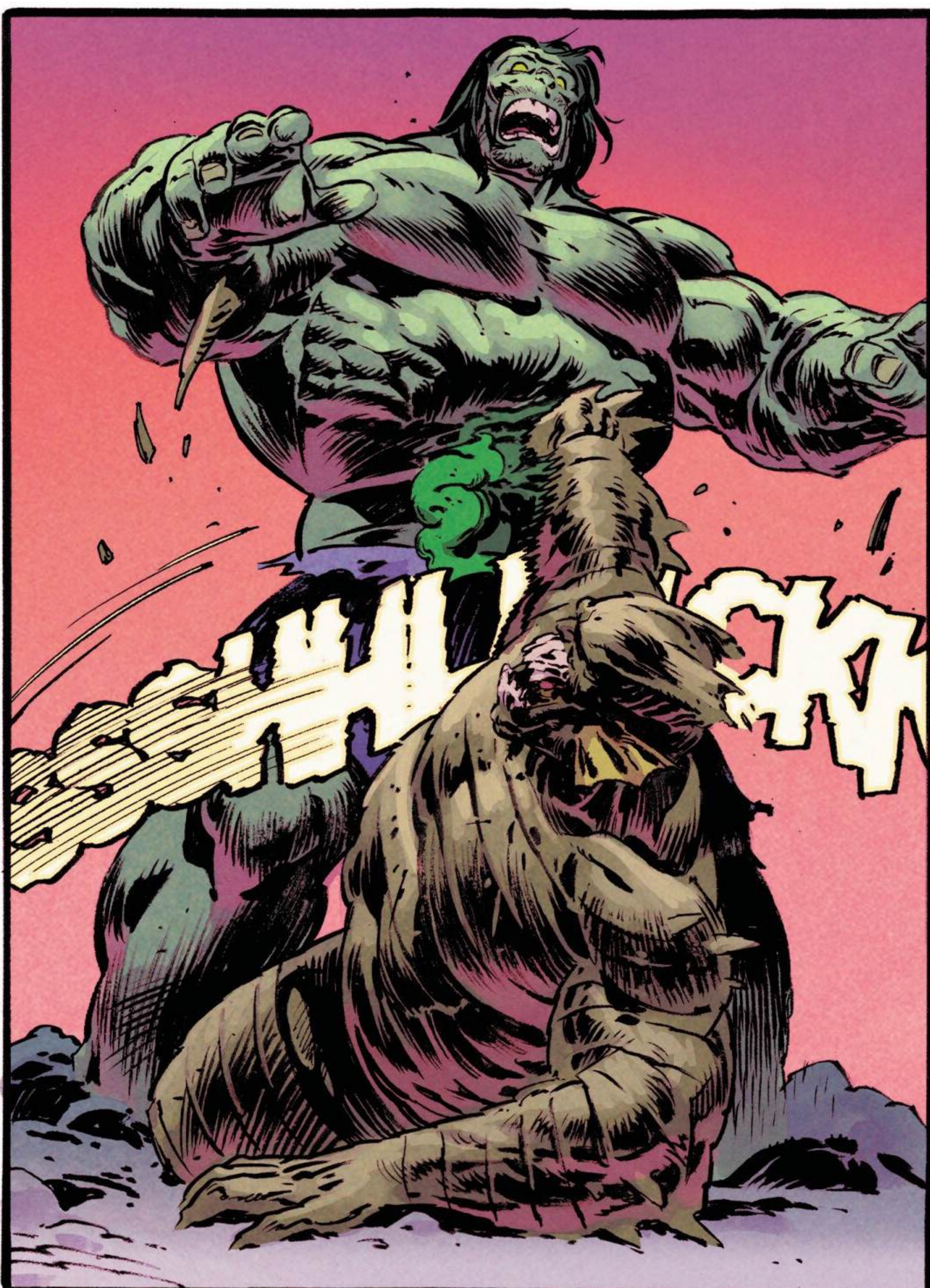
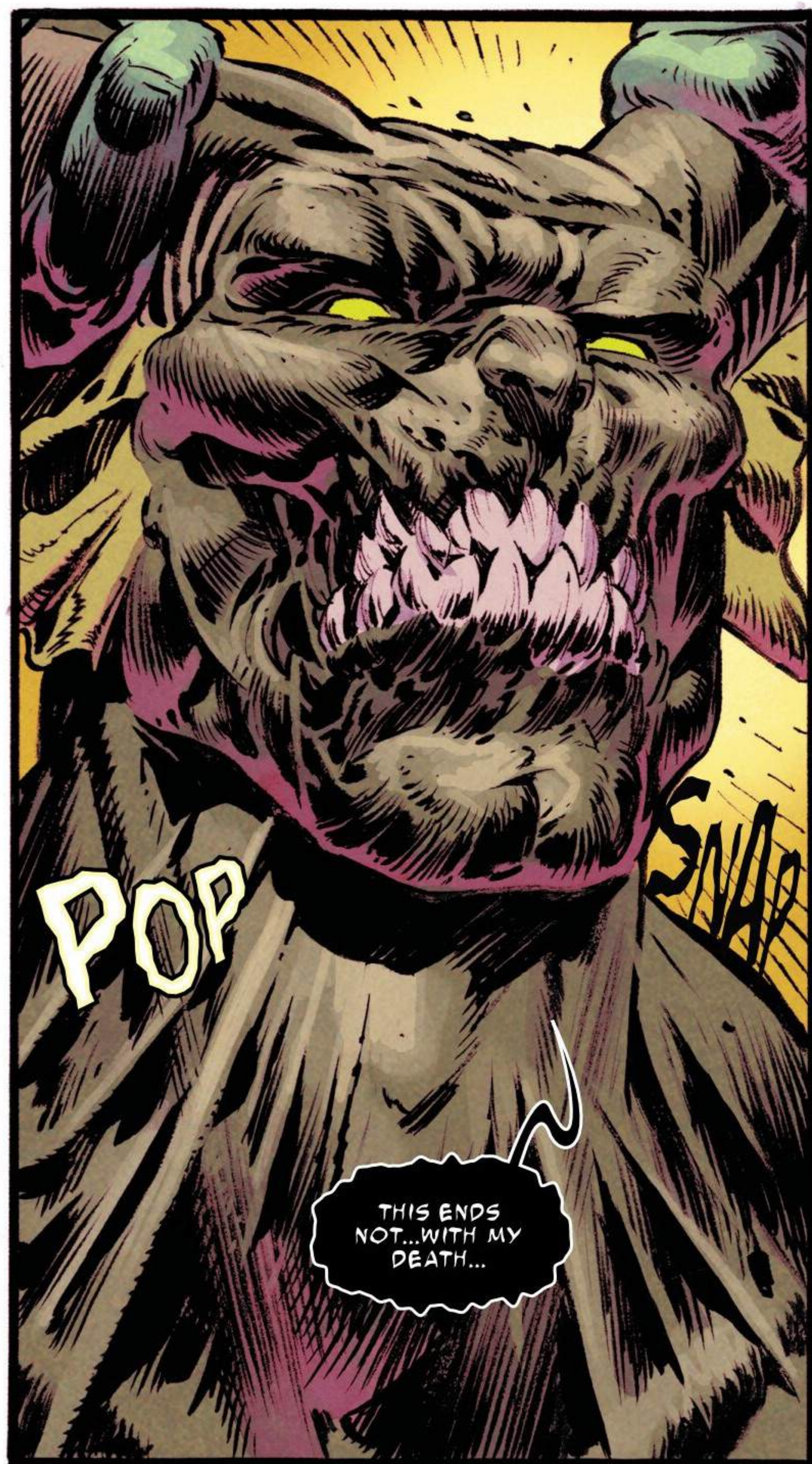
I WILL
SEE SCOUGH
THAT DOOR...
OPENED.

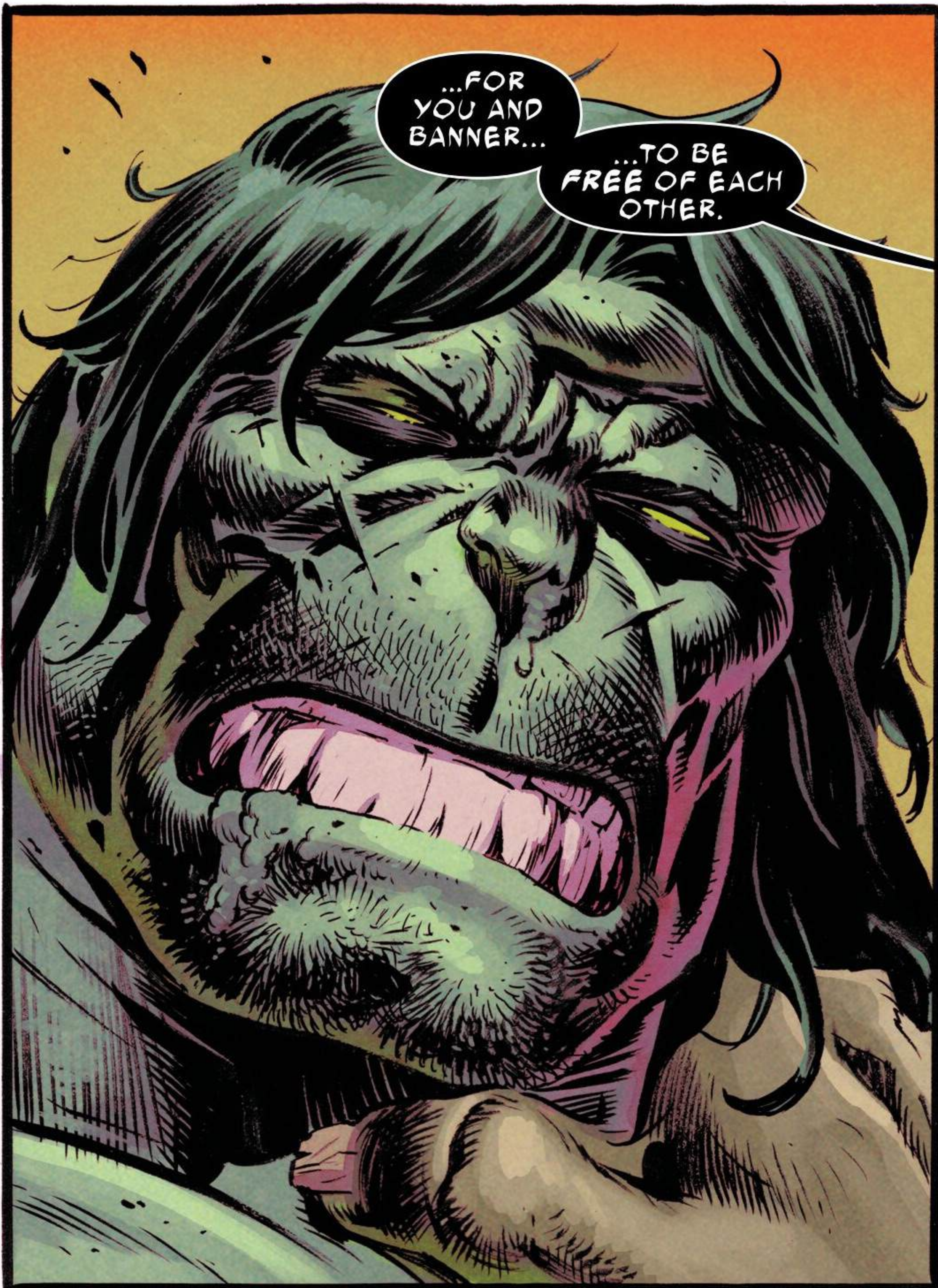
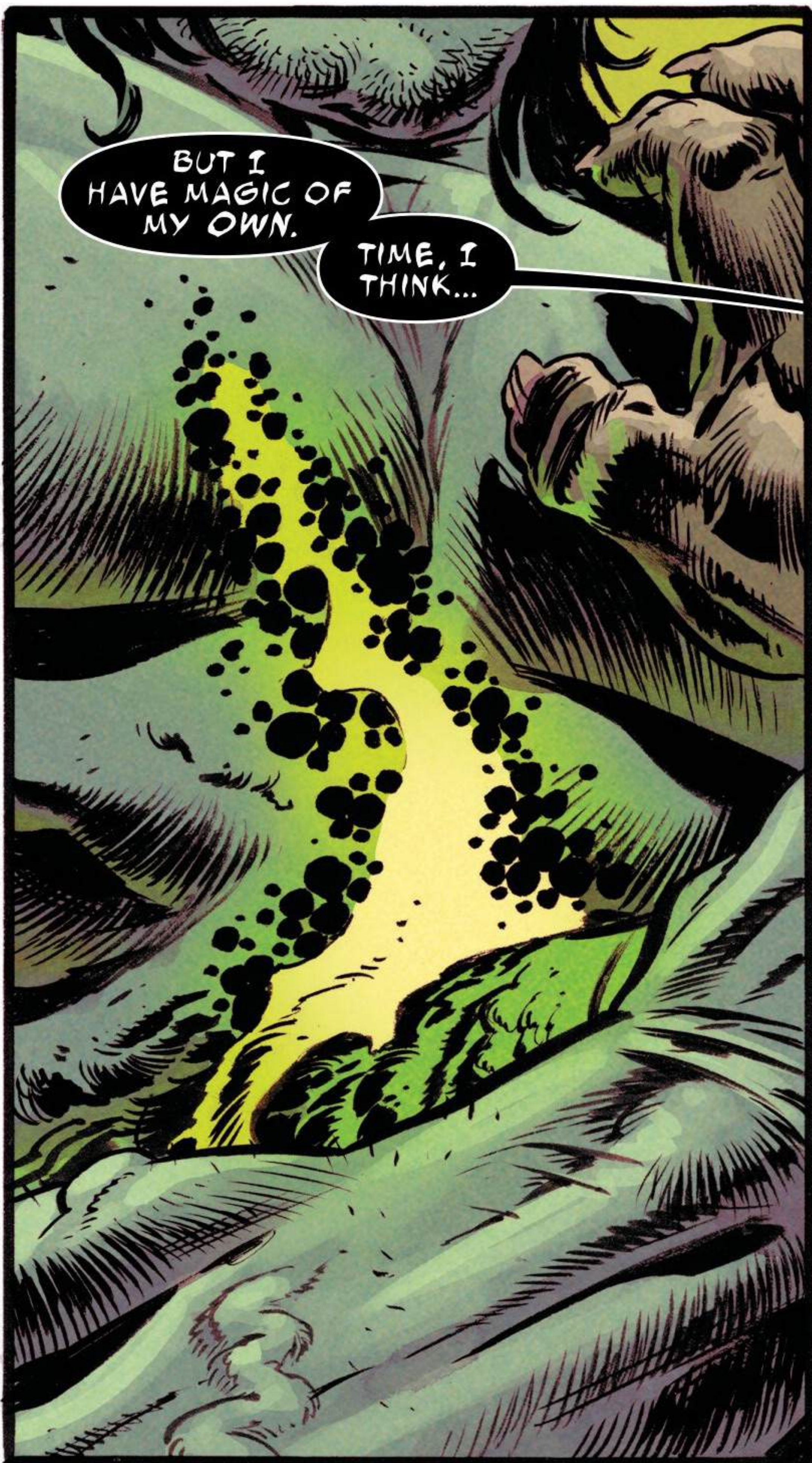
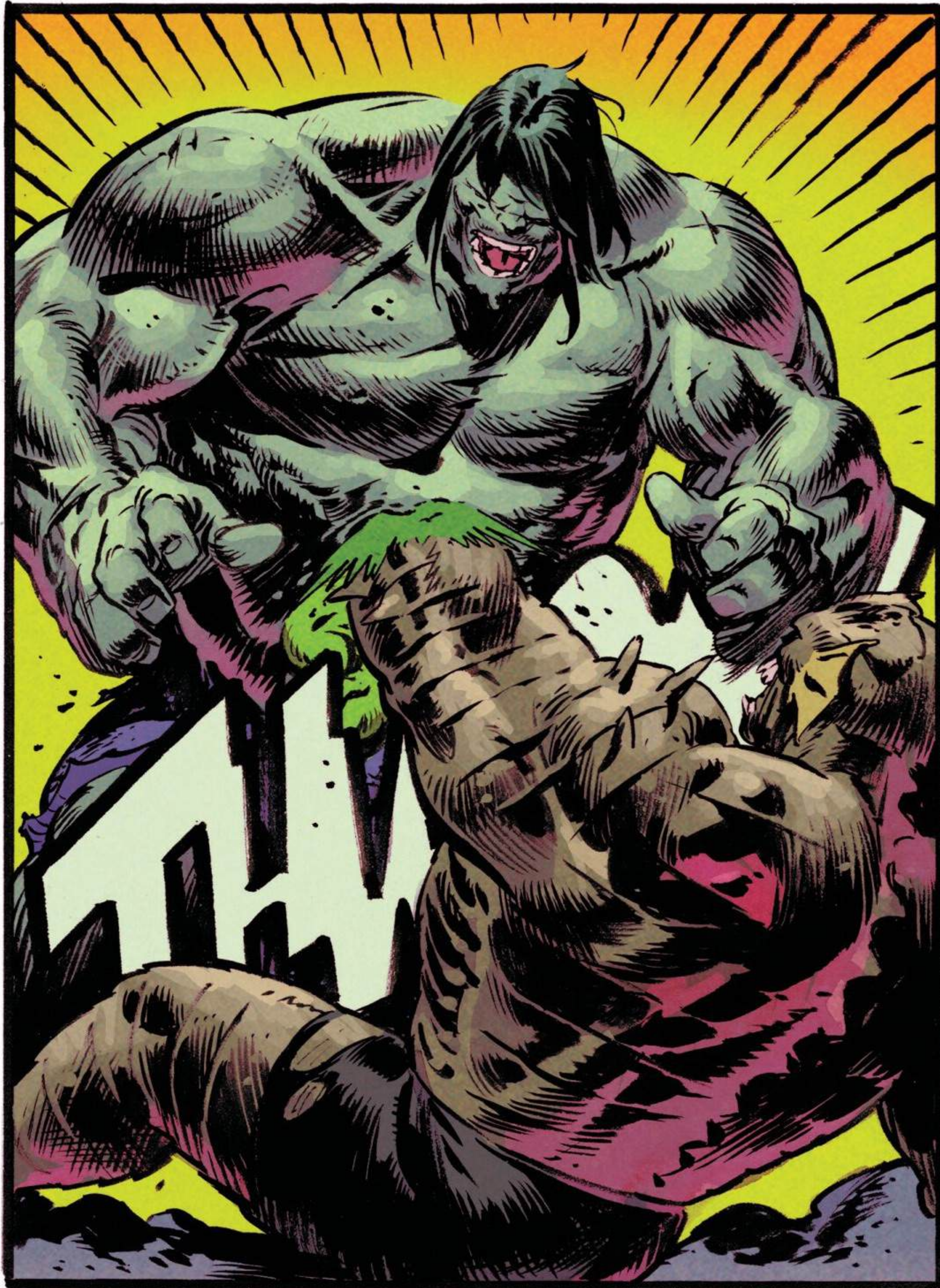


AT LEAST
ONE MORE,
I GUESS.
MAYBE...

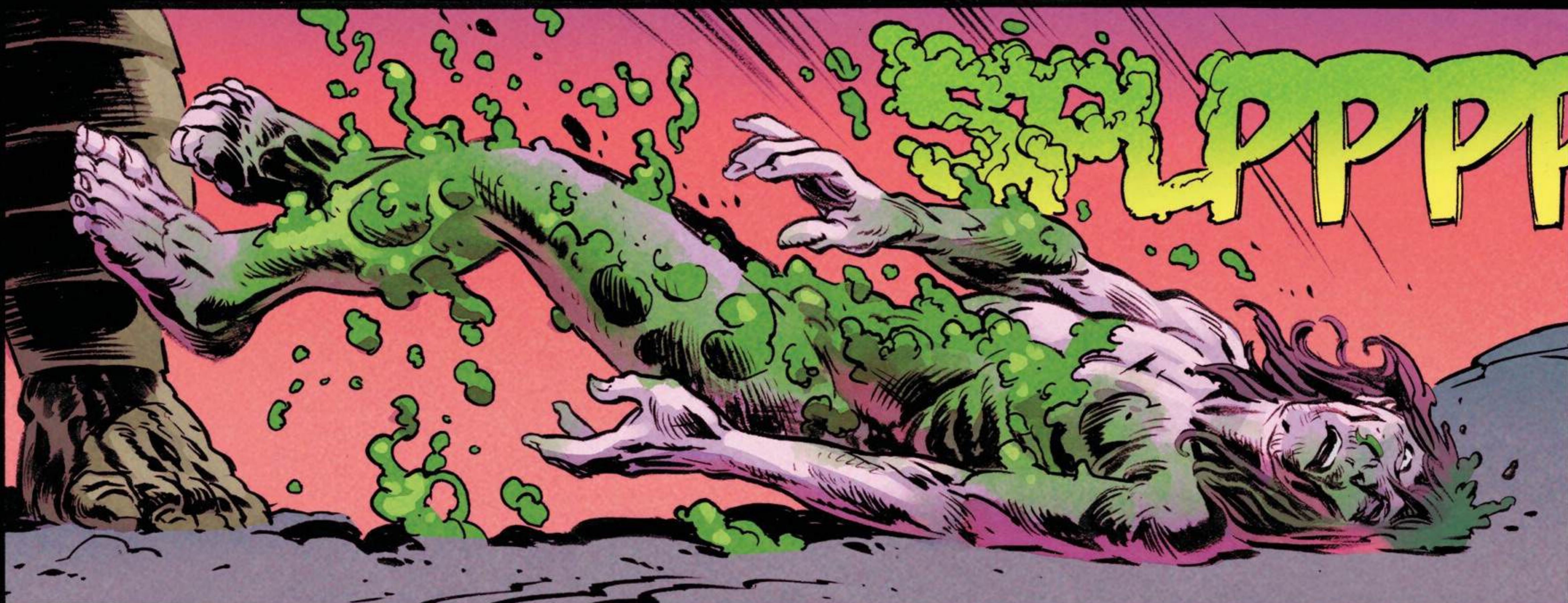


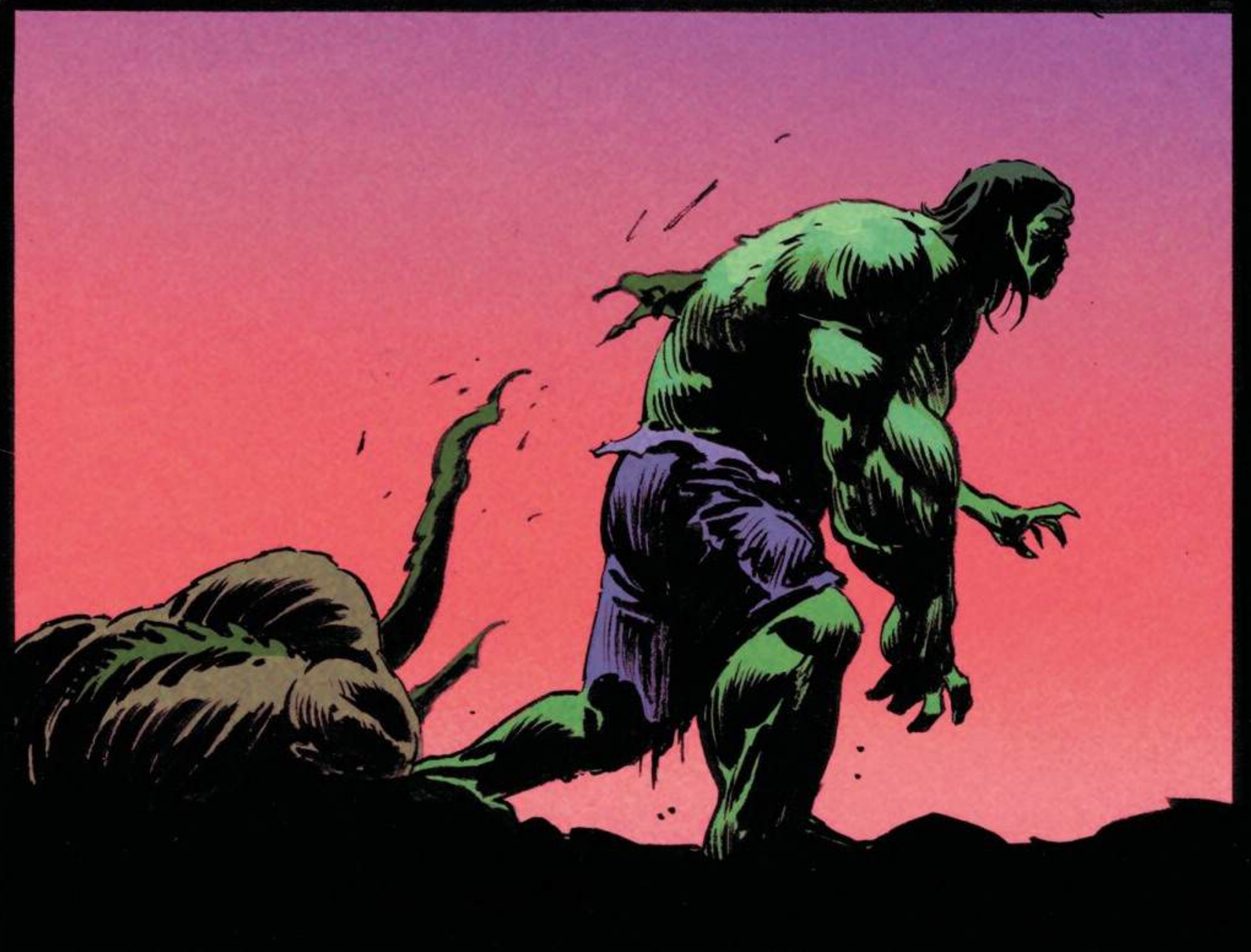
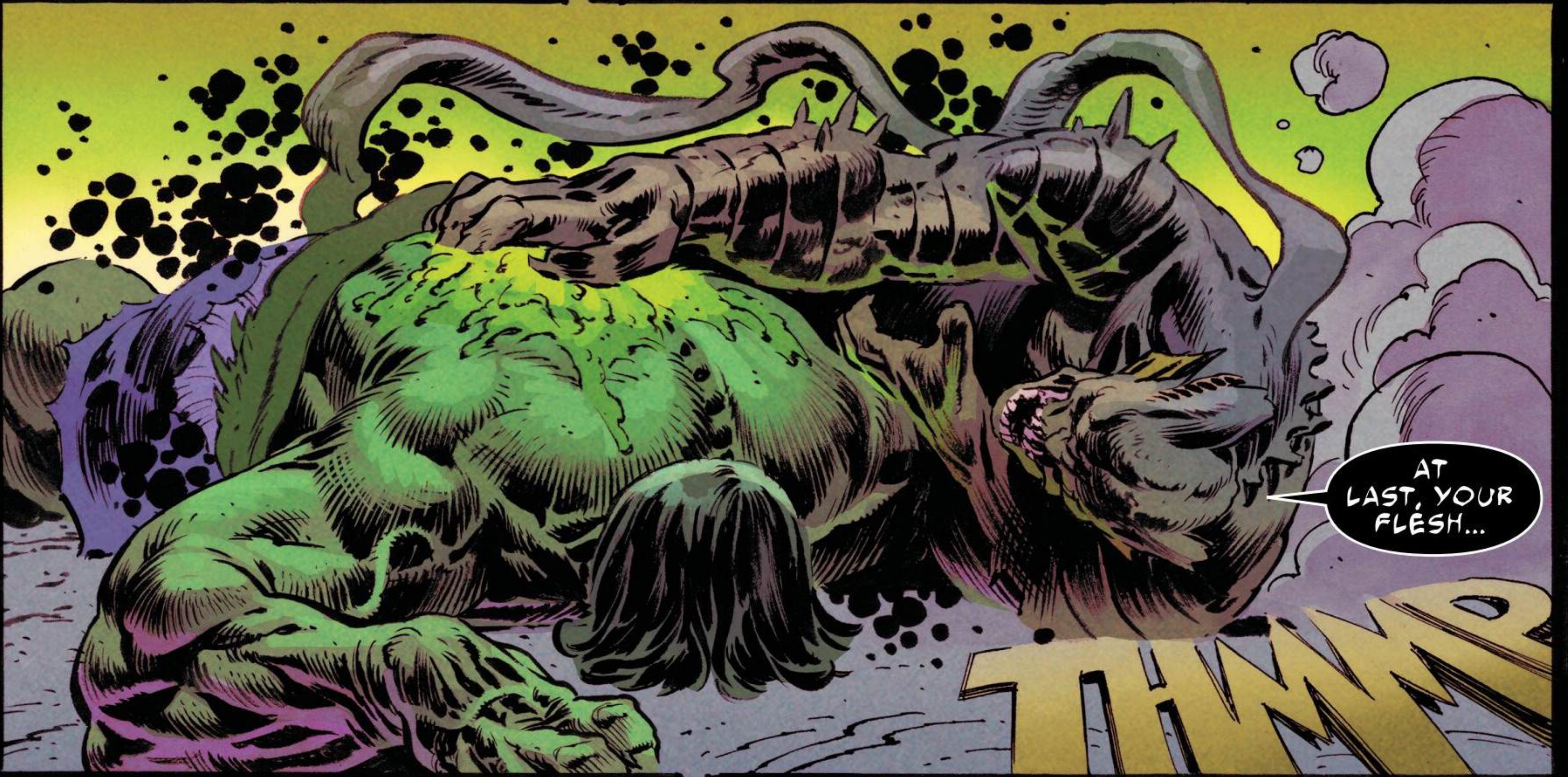
...IF I
PULL YOUR
HEAD OFF.















I'VE
DONE IT,
MOTHER.

I'VE
COME.



MOTHER?



MOTHER!

I'VE COME
TO BRING YOU
HOME!



MOTHER,
WHERE ARE
Y--?





...MOTHER?



IT'S
ME, YOUR
ELDEST.
I
FOUND
YOU.

RISE.



THE GREEN
DOOR IS SHUT.
THERE IS ONLY
US NOW.



YOUR
CHILDREN
AWAIT
YOU.

WILL
YOU NOT
RISE?



WILL YOU
NOT SPEAK
TO ME?

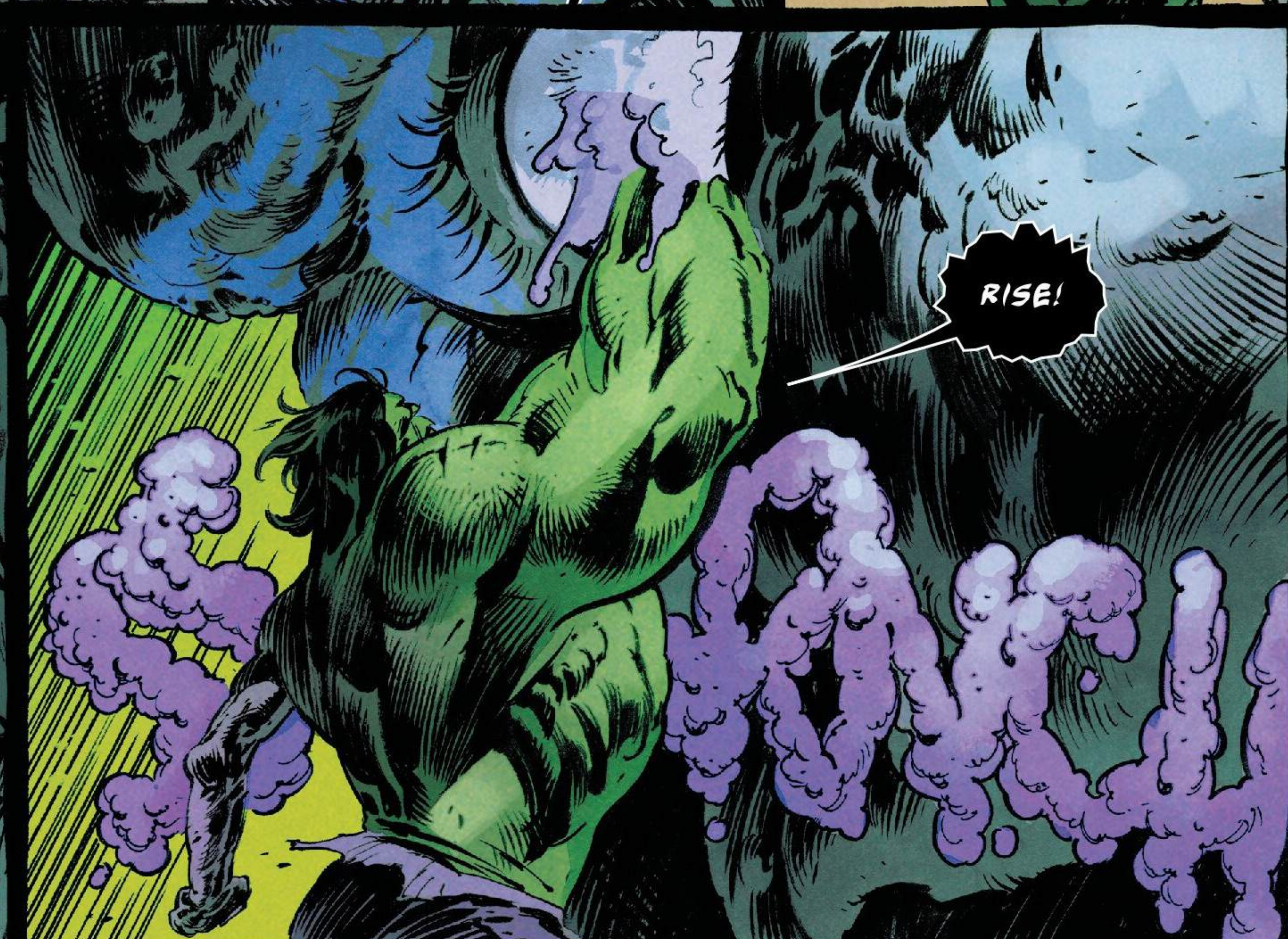


CAN
YOU NOT
SEE ME?

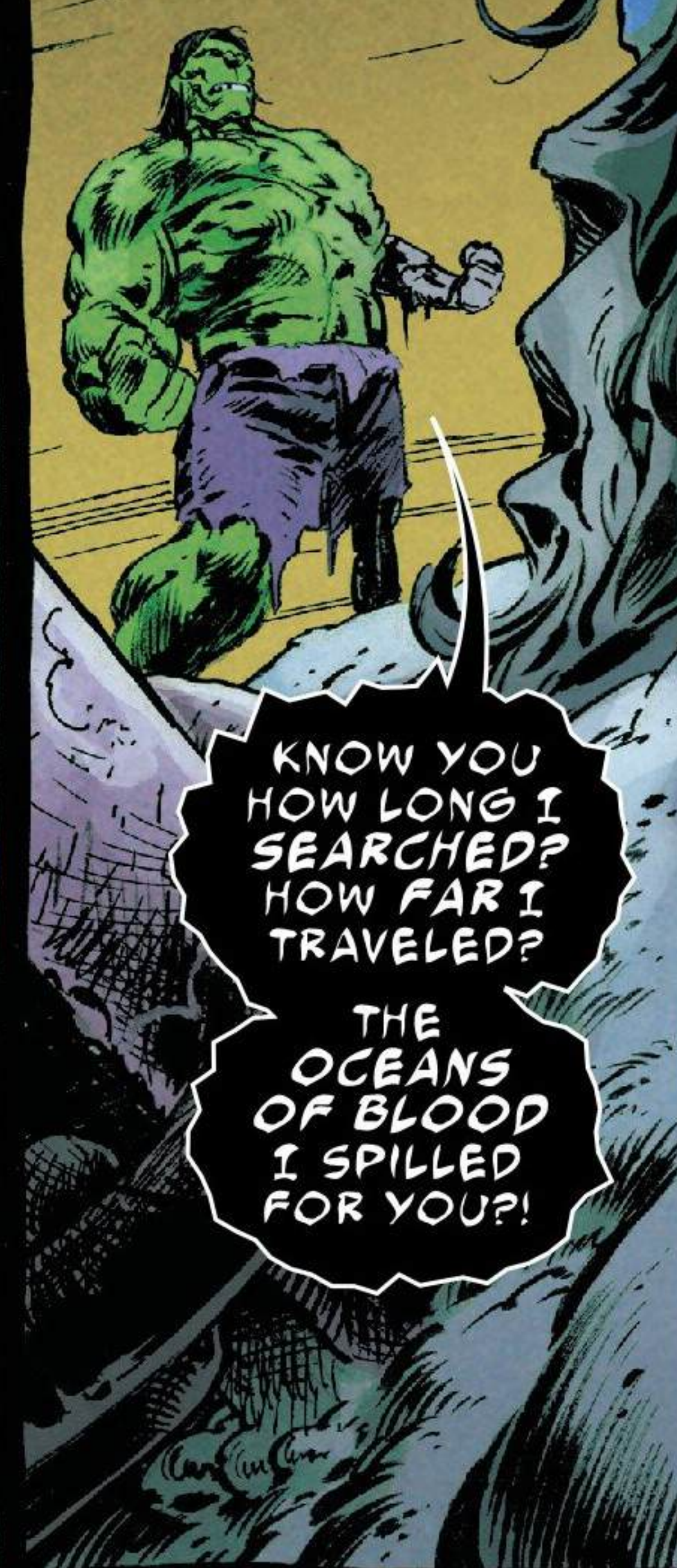


MOTHER,
REMEMBER YOUR
STRENGTH, YOUR
BEAUTY, YOUR
CUNNING.

RISE.



RISE!



KNOW YOU
HOW LONG I
SEARCHED?
HOW FAR I
TRAVELED?
THE
OCEANS
OF BLOOD
I SPILLED
FOR YOU?



RISE!



RISE!!!



I
AM YOUR
ELDEST!

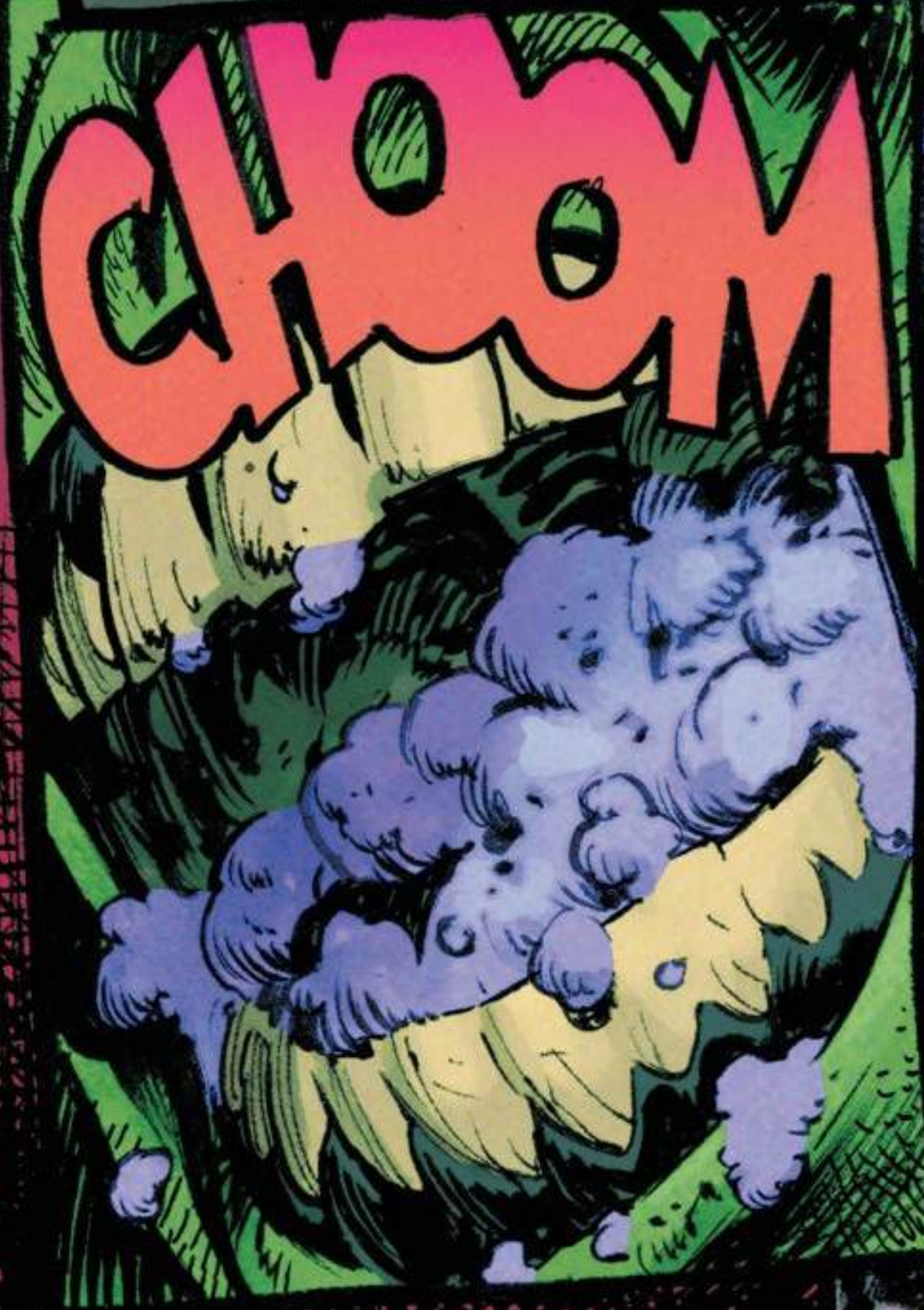
RRRIIIP



CHMP CHMP



SKRIP



CHOMP



RRRIIP

...I WILL
TAKE YOUR
POWER...



CHMP



HOM HOM



SKRIP



SKRIP



CHMP CHMP



HOM



HEHE



KK



CHMP



KILLING



HA HA



HOM



SKRIP



CHMP



CHMP



CHMP



CHMP



CHMP

THE
GREEN
DOOR IS
SHUT.

ROOM

THE ONE
BELOW ALL
IS GONE.

ROOM

MOTHER
IS GONE.

ROOM

THE
FRACTURED SON
IS GONE.

ROOM

ALL THAT
REMAINS...



...IS
HULK.

NEXT: INFERNAL HULK!

THE REMEMBRANCES OF ELDEST BRUCE BANNER

Now our quarrel is done, and the Age of Monsters begins.

I have no love for these grubby human cattle. Delusional, self-important insects as selfish as they are weak, as gluttonous as they are stupid, treacherous and false.

Yet now that I have won, I would remember the one named Bruce Banner, who long bore a weight few immortals could have borne.

I left Banner bleeding and trembling upon the Requiem Plain, alongside his fellows whom I drained of their gamma. They must surely have died there, or will die soon. Yet in the blood, bone, brain and skin of this Hulk's body, echoes of Banner's life are writ upon it. I have seen the planting of seeds that grew into this mighty form. I know now that even before he became the Hulk, Banner was one of us.

Ambition driven by weakness. Love corrupted by violence. Brilliance twisted by madness. Unspeakable acts in the service of greatness, and jealousy, and revenge. Bruce Banner has committed deeds Mother Vinruviel would have recognized, and

been most proud. He was a monster long before the light of the Green Door fell upon him.

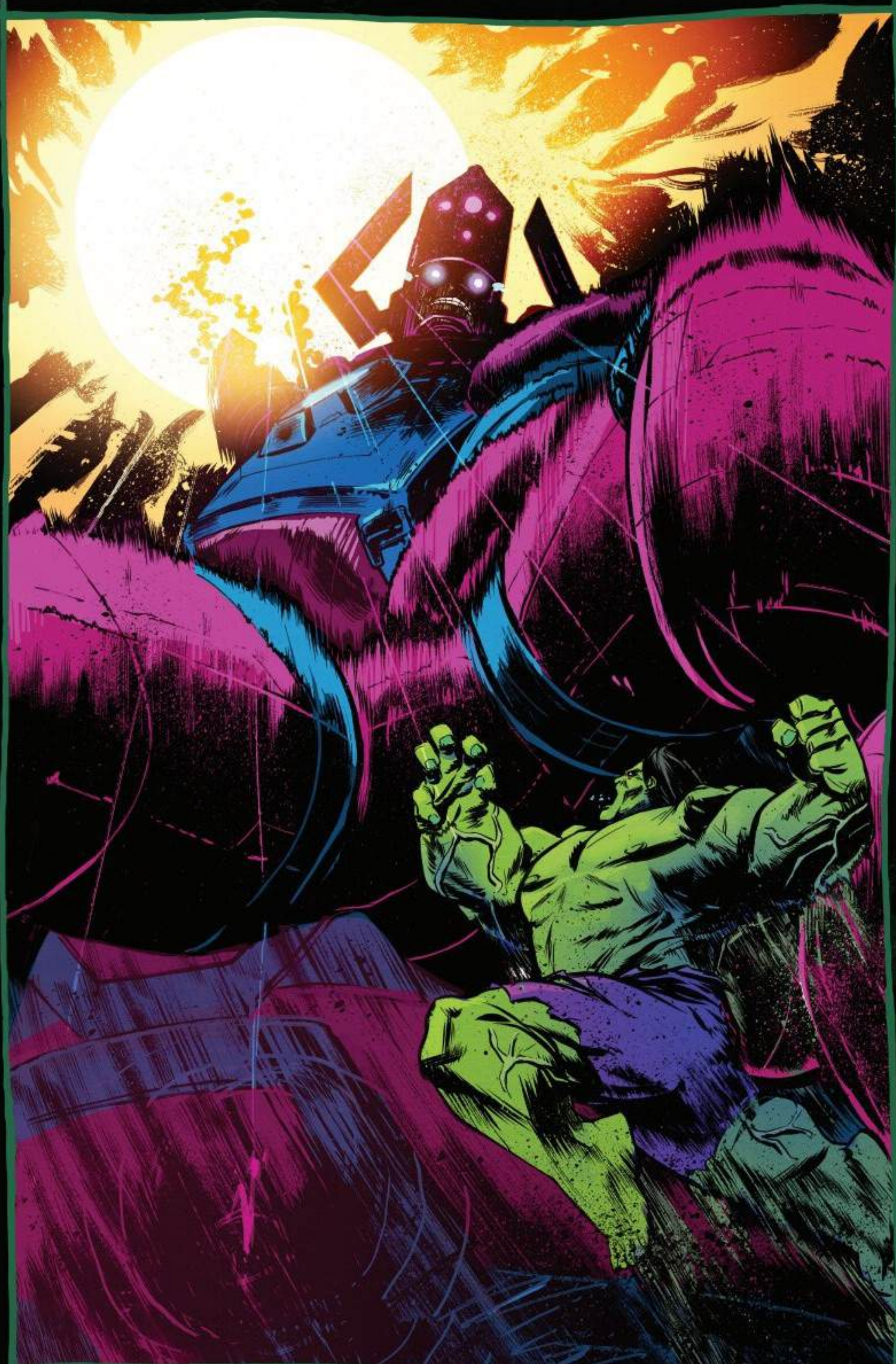
There is no denying that Banner's green flame burned more brightly than in the others...as brightly as in Enkidu himself. Could Banner's innate baseness be the reason? His capacity for pain, for violence, for brilliance and madness?

I wonder on his fellows, the other so-called "Heroes" of this time. The soldier, the spider, the one clad in iron, the atom's children.

If corrupted, would they burn as brightly as Banner?

Swift journey in death, little Banner. Though you knew it not, you were one of us. I will put this form to great use, and those of your fellows as well.





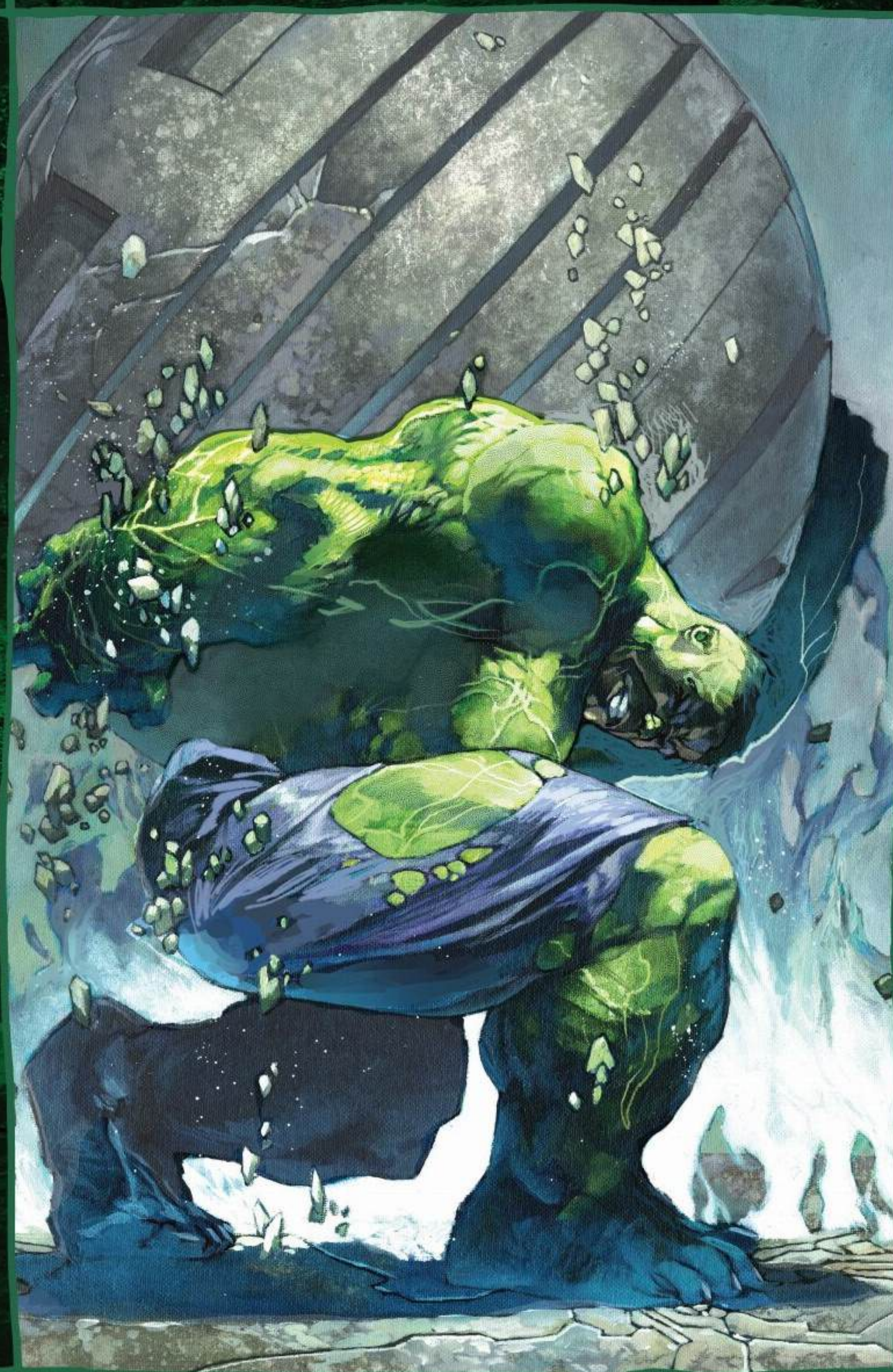
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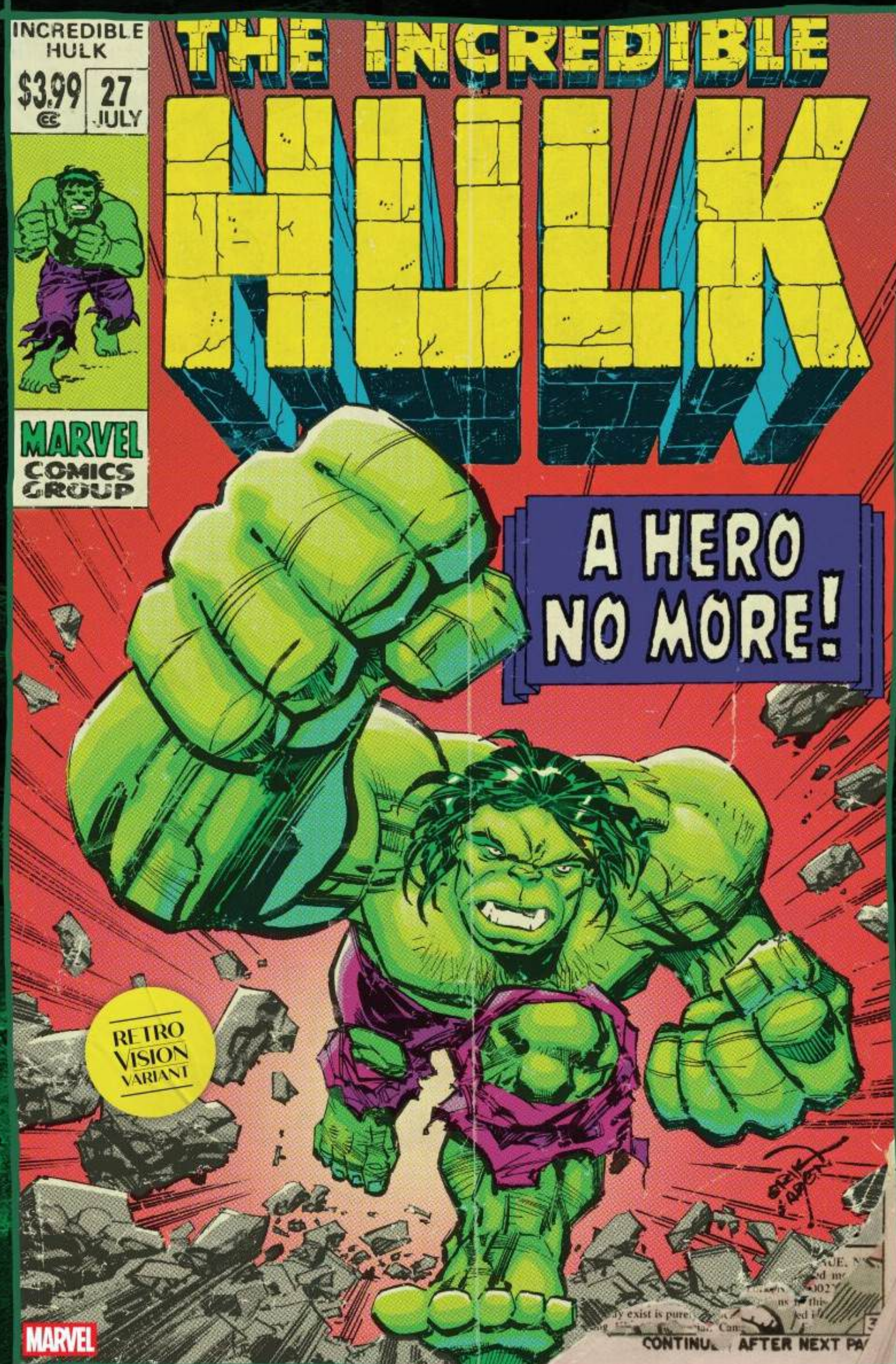
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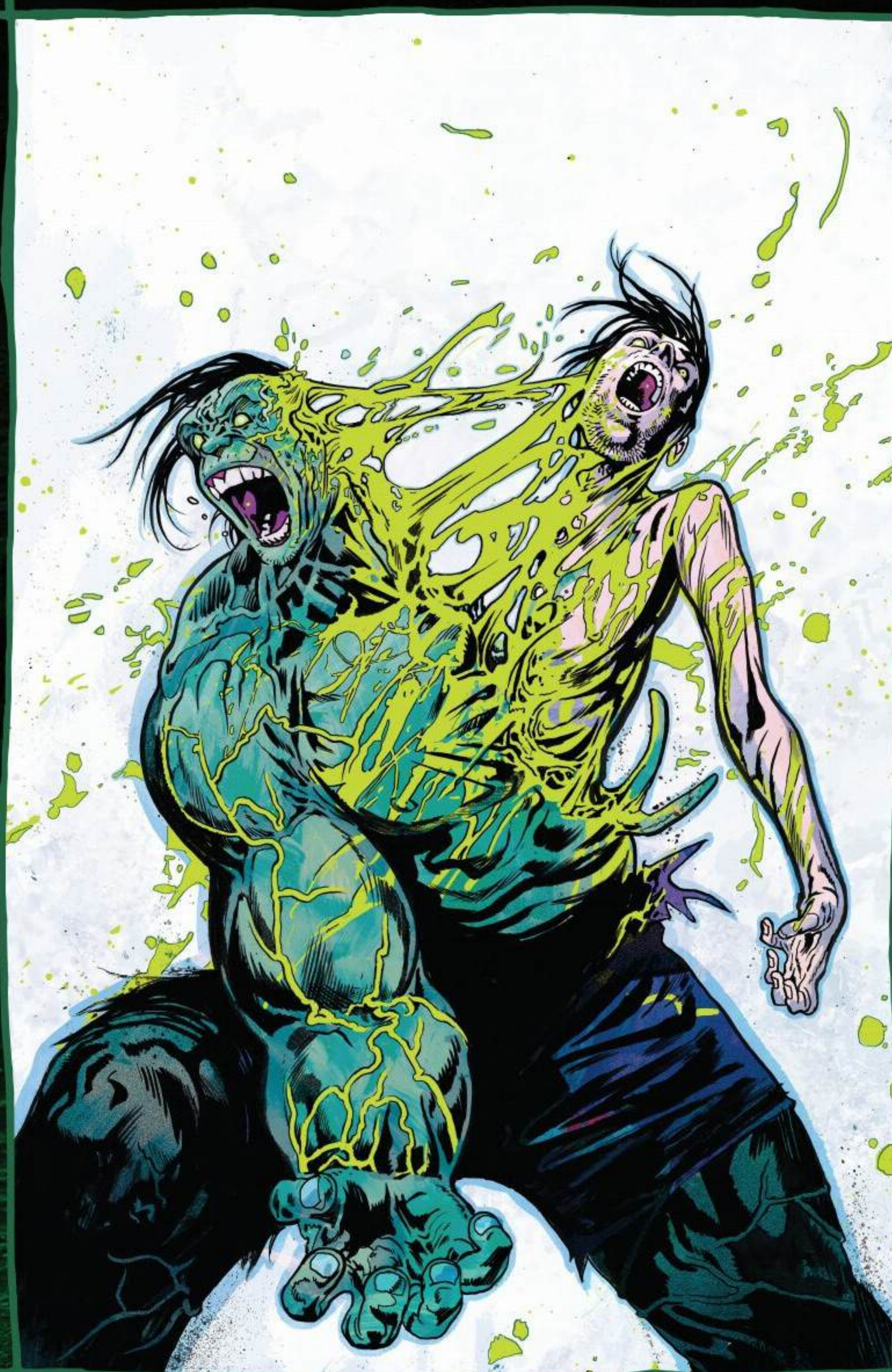
INCREDIBLE HULK #26 VARIANT BY
CORY SMITH & RACHELLE ROSENBERG



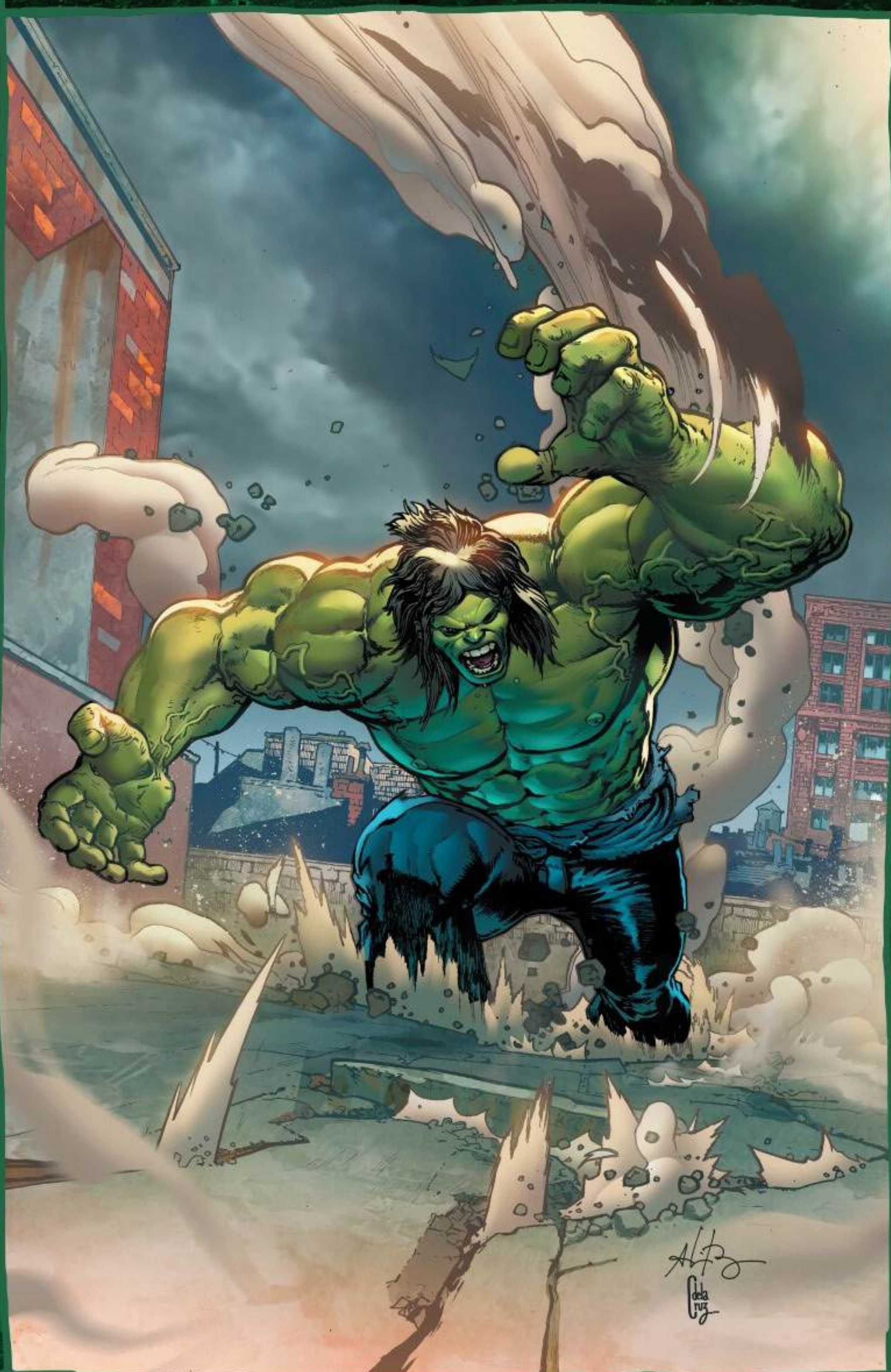
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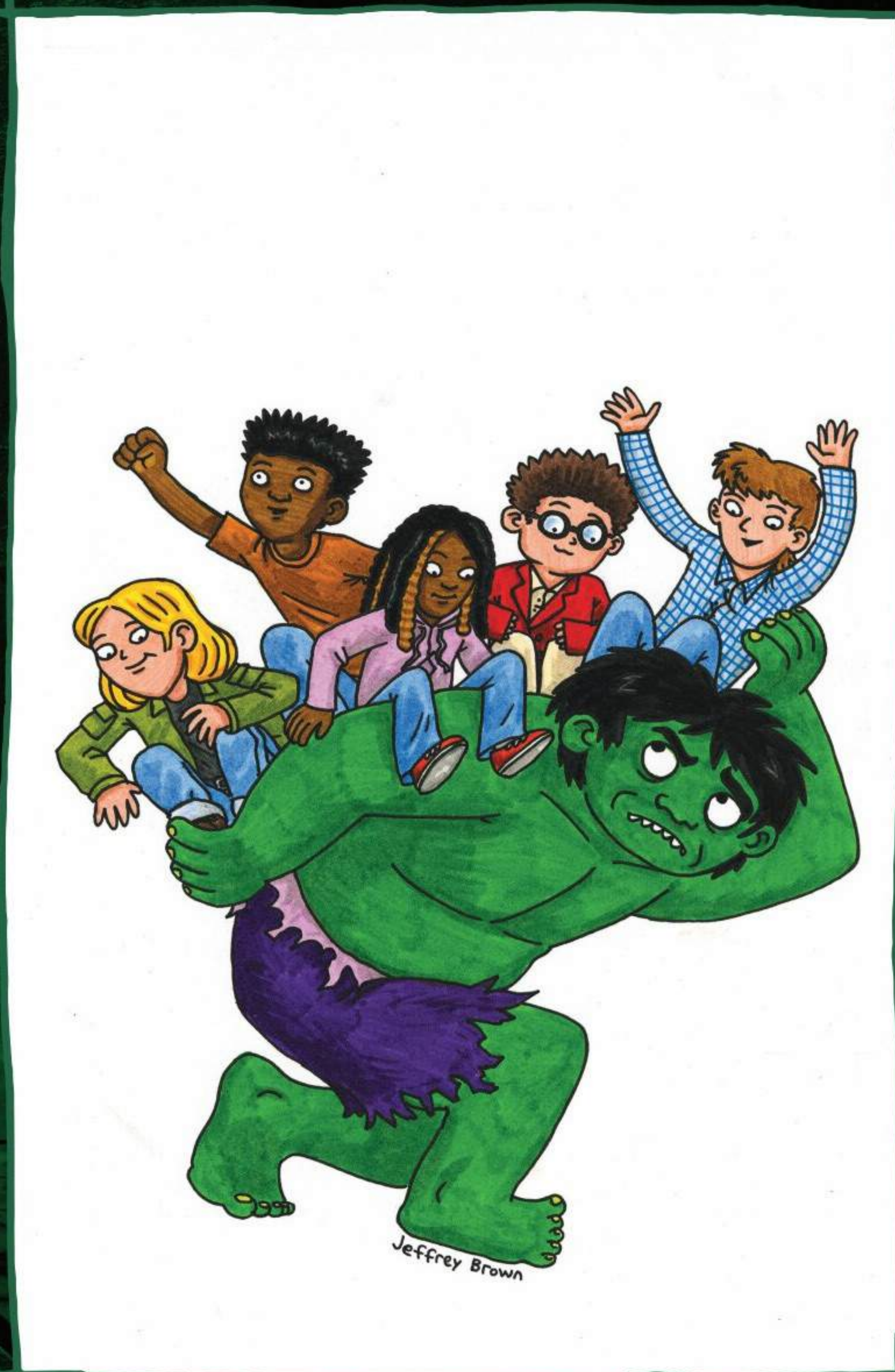
INCREDIBLE HULK #27 RETROVISION VARIANT BY
ERIK LARSEN



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MICHAEL WALSH



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INCREDIBLE HULK #28 VARIANT BY
JEFFREY BROWN



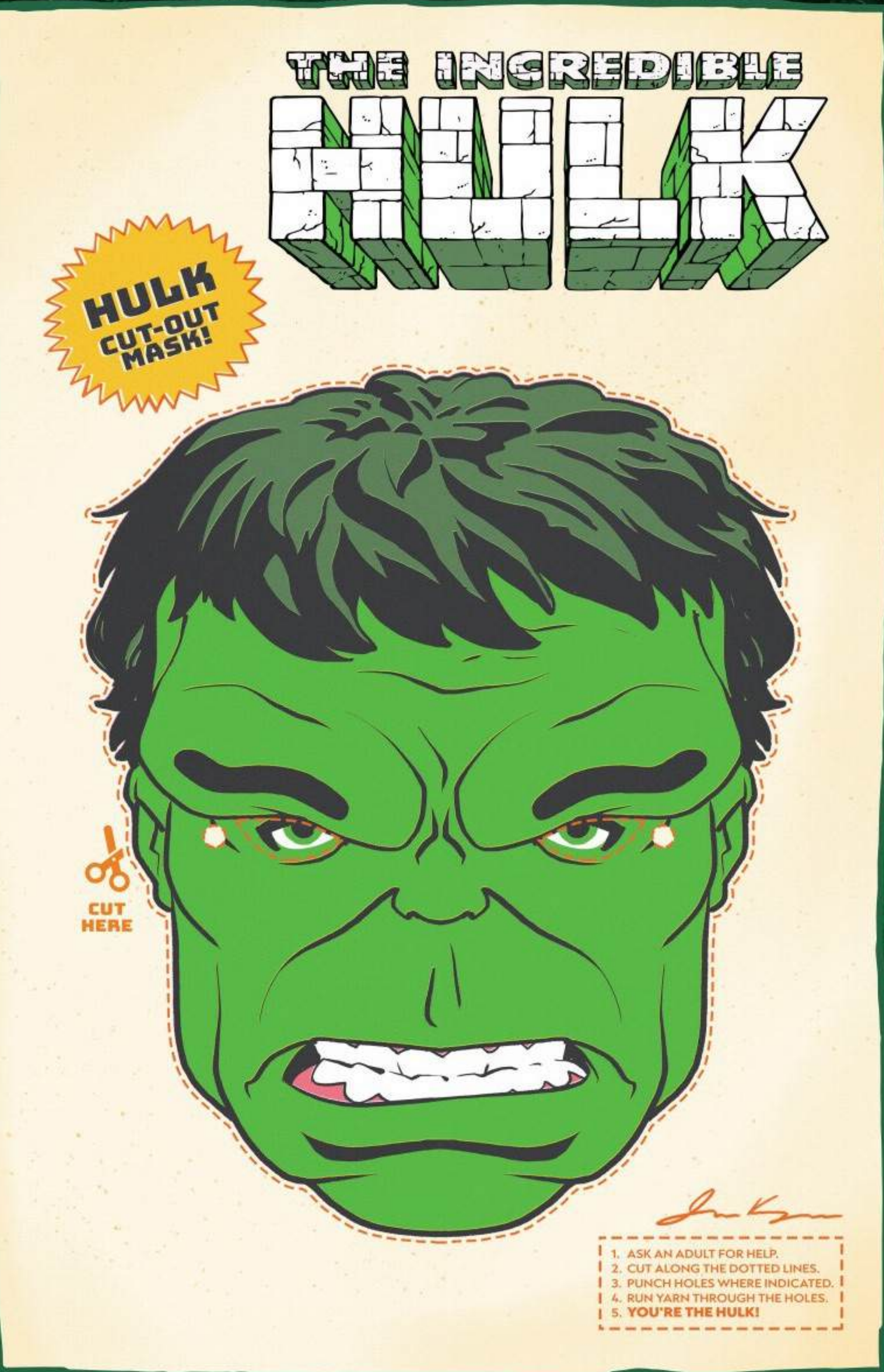
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JAMES KERIGAN



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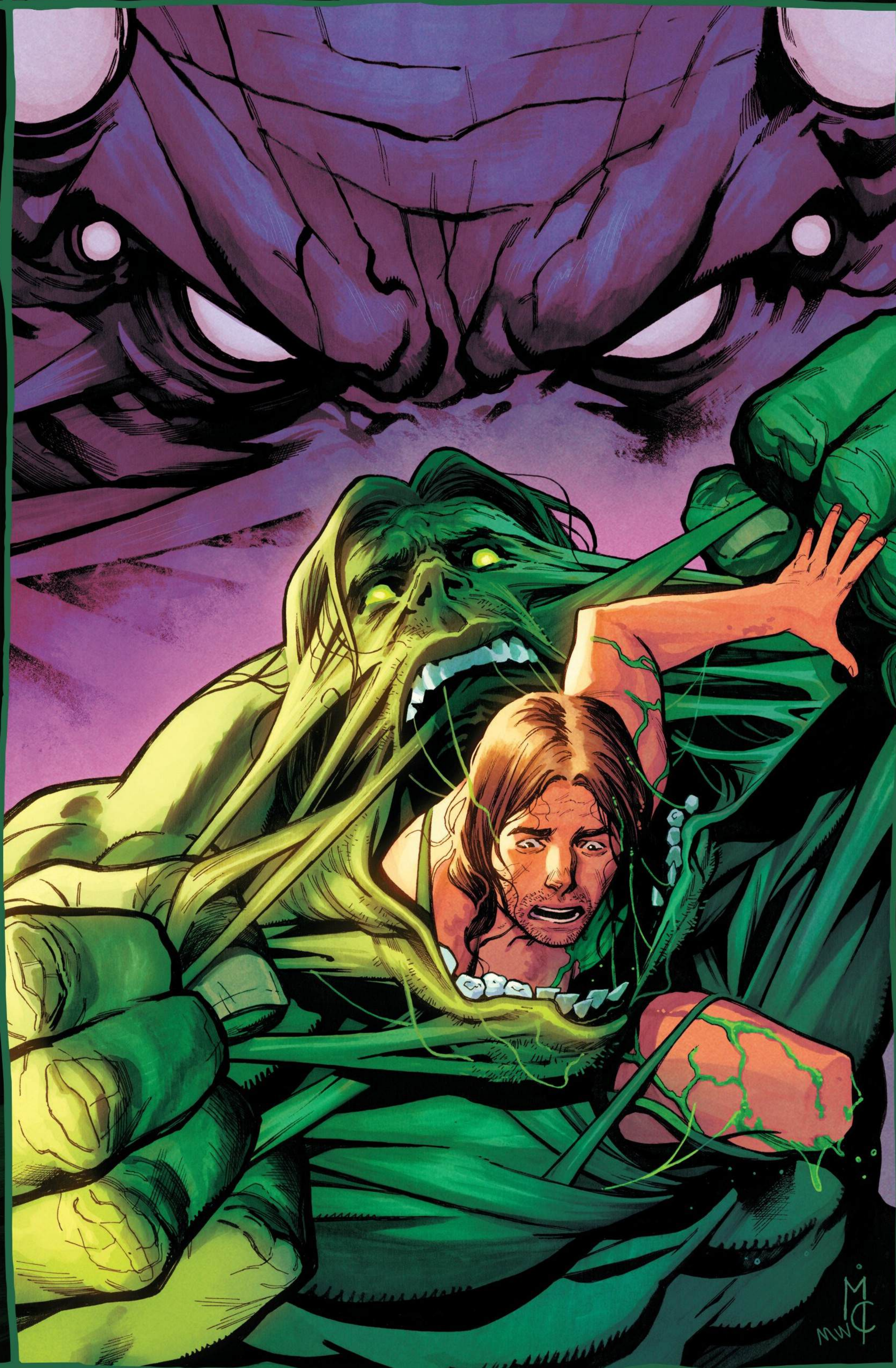
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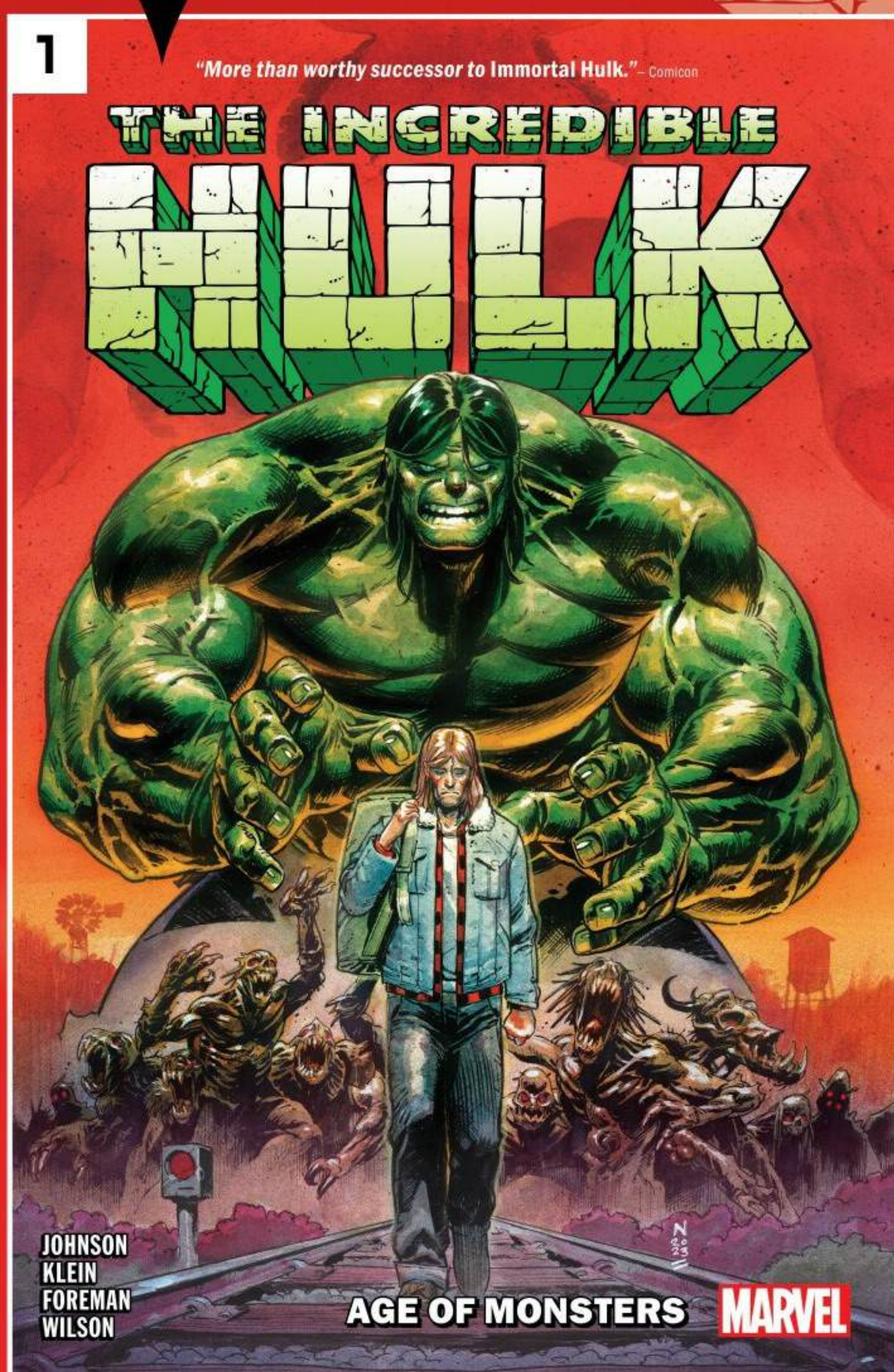
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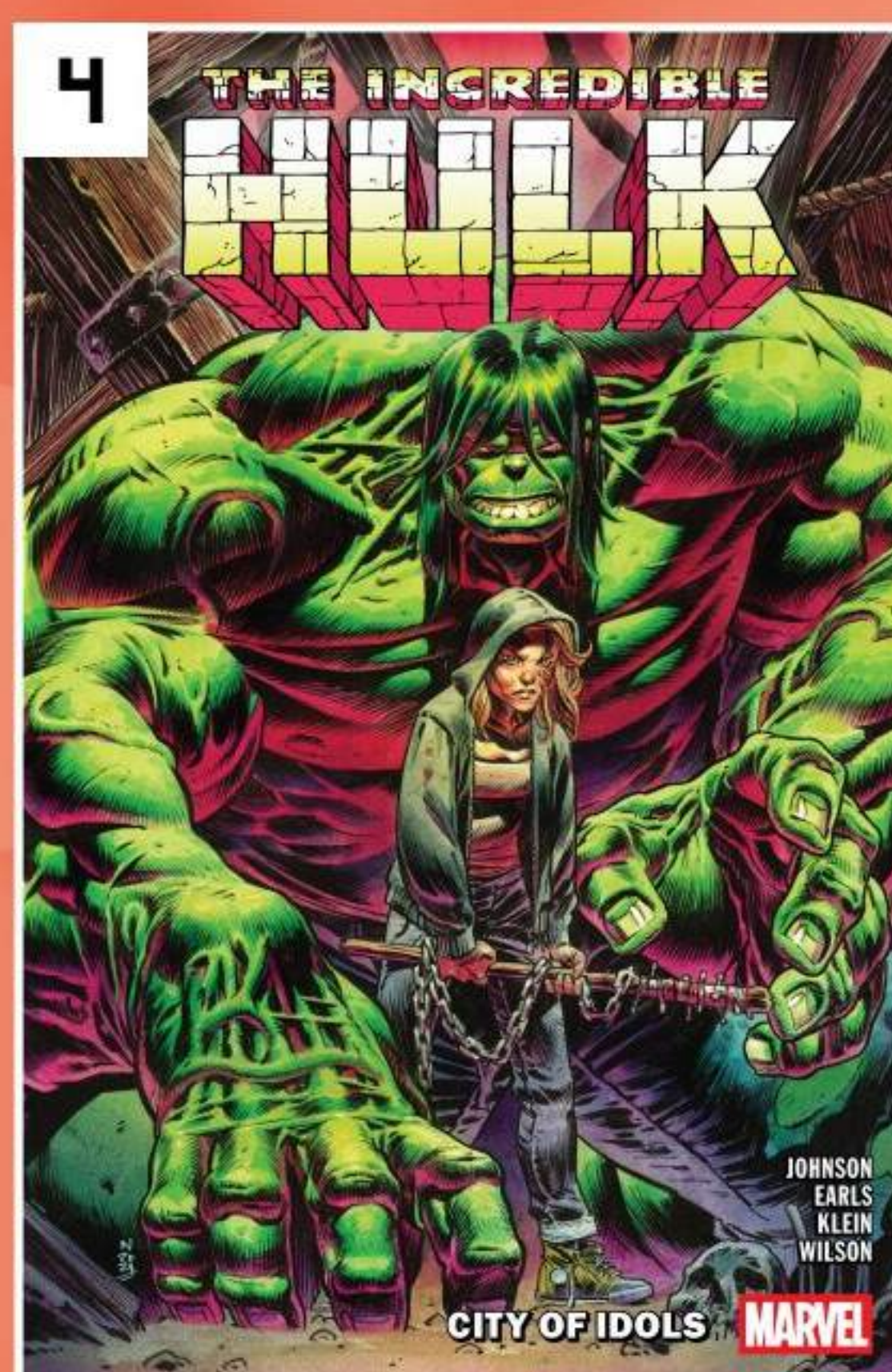
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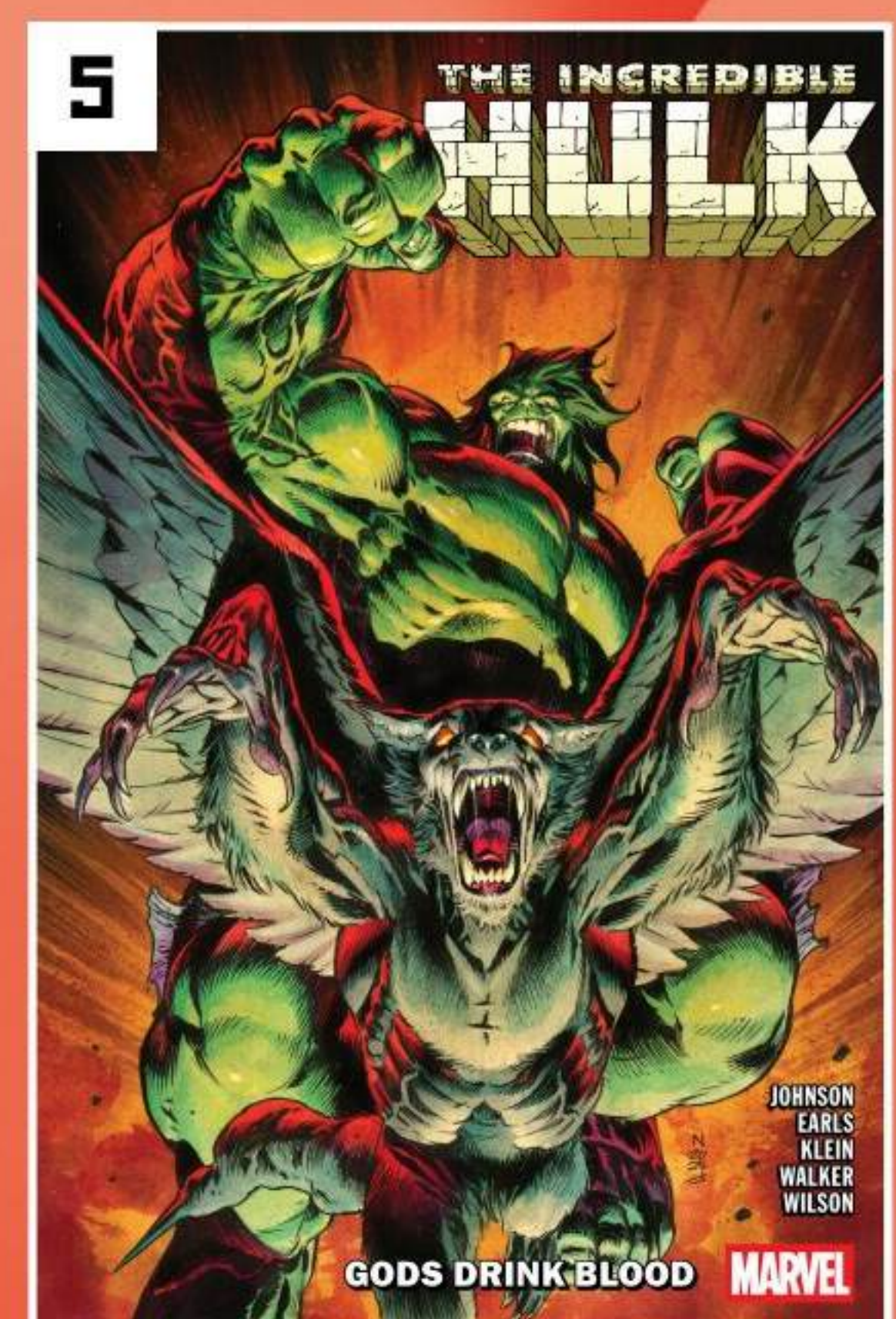
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AS GAMMA MUTATES AROUND THE WORLD GO MISSING, the Winter Soldier seeks out Bruce Banner for answers — but finds only Hulk! Eager to help her role model Bucky Barnes, Charlie finds a way into the Hulscape to speak to Banner — and what she finds will change her relationship with Hulk forever! As the raging monster finally finds the solitude he wanted deep in the Appalachian Mountains — no more enemies, no companions, not even Banner — his peace is interrupted by a young boy in danger. And Hulk starts to wonder whether Charlie was right about him. Could he be a hero again after all? But soon, one of Hulk's newfound allies is taken — and they won't be the last. Betty Ross returns, and the origin of the Mother of Horrors is revealed in the run-up to a truly incredible status-quo shift!



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